

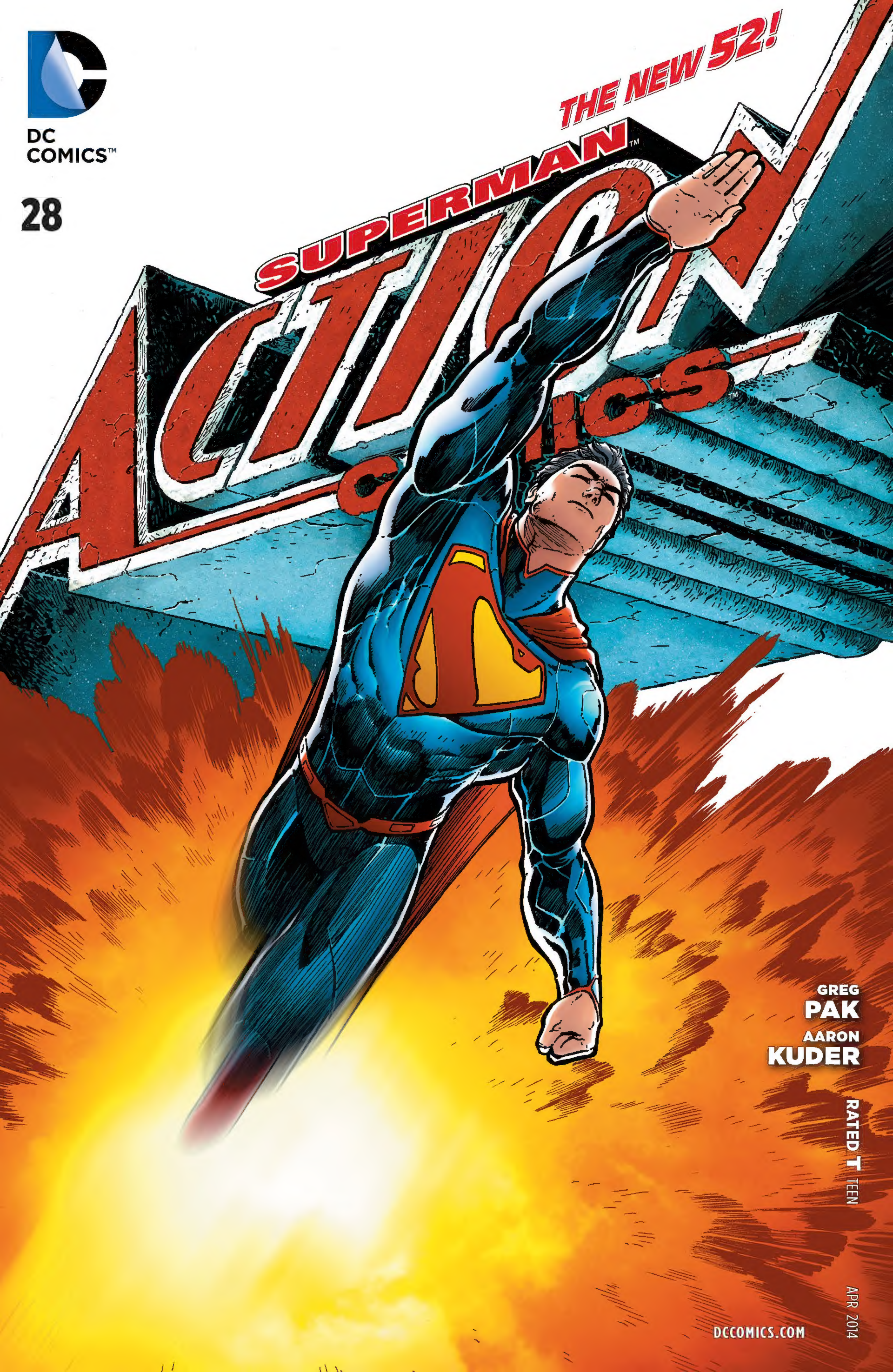


DC
COMICS™

28

THE NEW 52!

SUPERMAN™



GREG
PAK
AARON
KUDER

RATED T TEEN

DCCOMICS.COM

APR 2014



I'M
SUPERMAN.

I'VE DEFEATED DEATH
GODS, TAMED SUN
EATERS, AND BEFRIENDED
MONSTERS...

...BUT WHEN YOU'RE
SEVEN MILES UNDER-
GROUND AT THE DOOR-
STEP OF A SECRET
CIVILIZATION...

...AND THE INSANELY
SUPER-POWERED
WARRIOR YOU'VE JUST
BEEN FIGHTING TURNS
AROUND AND YELLS...

**FOOLISH
UPLANDERS!**

YOU'VE
BROKEN THE SEALS
TO IMPERIAL
SUBTERRANEA--

--AND
AWAKENED THE
MOST TERRIFYING
THREAT OUR WORLDS
HAVE EVER
SEEN!

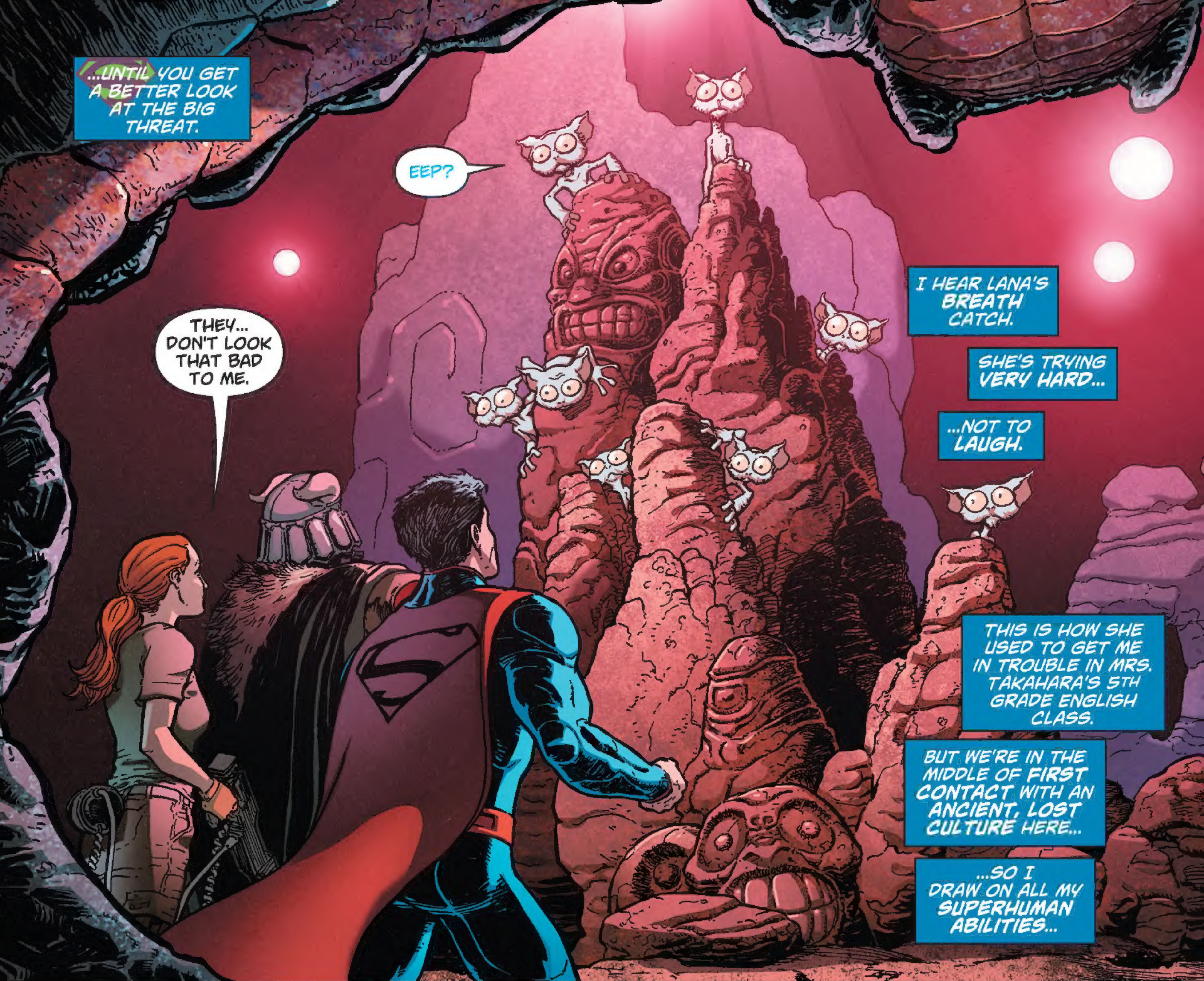
...THE HAIRS ON
THE BACK OF
YOUR NECK TEND
TO STAND UP A
LITTLE...

EEEEEEEEEE!

DC COMICS™ PROUDLY PRESENTS:

SUPERMAN IN **WHAT LIES BENEATH**

WRITTEN BY GREG PAK ART BY AARON KUDER COLORS BY WIL QUINTANA
LETTERS BY DC LETTERING COVER BY AARON KUDER AND WIL QUINTANA
STEAMPUNK VARIANT COVER BY DAVE JOHNSON
ASSISTANT EDITOR ANTHONY MARQUES GROUP EDITOR EDDIE BERGANZA
SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL AND JOE SHUSTER. BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY



...UNTIL YOU GET
A BETTER LOOK
AT THE BIG
THREAT.

EEP?

THEY...
DON'T LOOK
THAT BAD
TO ME.

I HEAR LANA'S
BREATH
CATCH.

SHE'S TRYING
VERY HARD...

...NOT TO
LAUGH.

THIS IS HOW SHE
USED TO GET ME
IN TROUBLE IN MRS.
TAKAHARA'S 5TH
GRADE ENGLISH
CLASS.

BUT WE'RE IN THE
MIDDLE OF FIRST
CONTACT WITH AN
ANCIENT, LOST
CULTURE HERE...

...SO I
DRAW ON ALL MY
SUPERHUMAN
ABILITIES...



...AND KEEP
A STRAIGHT
FACE.

UKUR, HOW
LONG SINCE
YOU'VE BEEN
DOWN TO THIS
LEVEL?

A FEW
HUNDRED
YEARS...

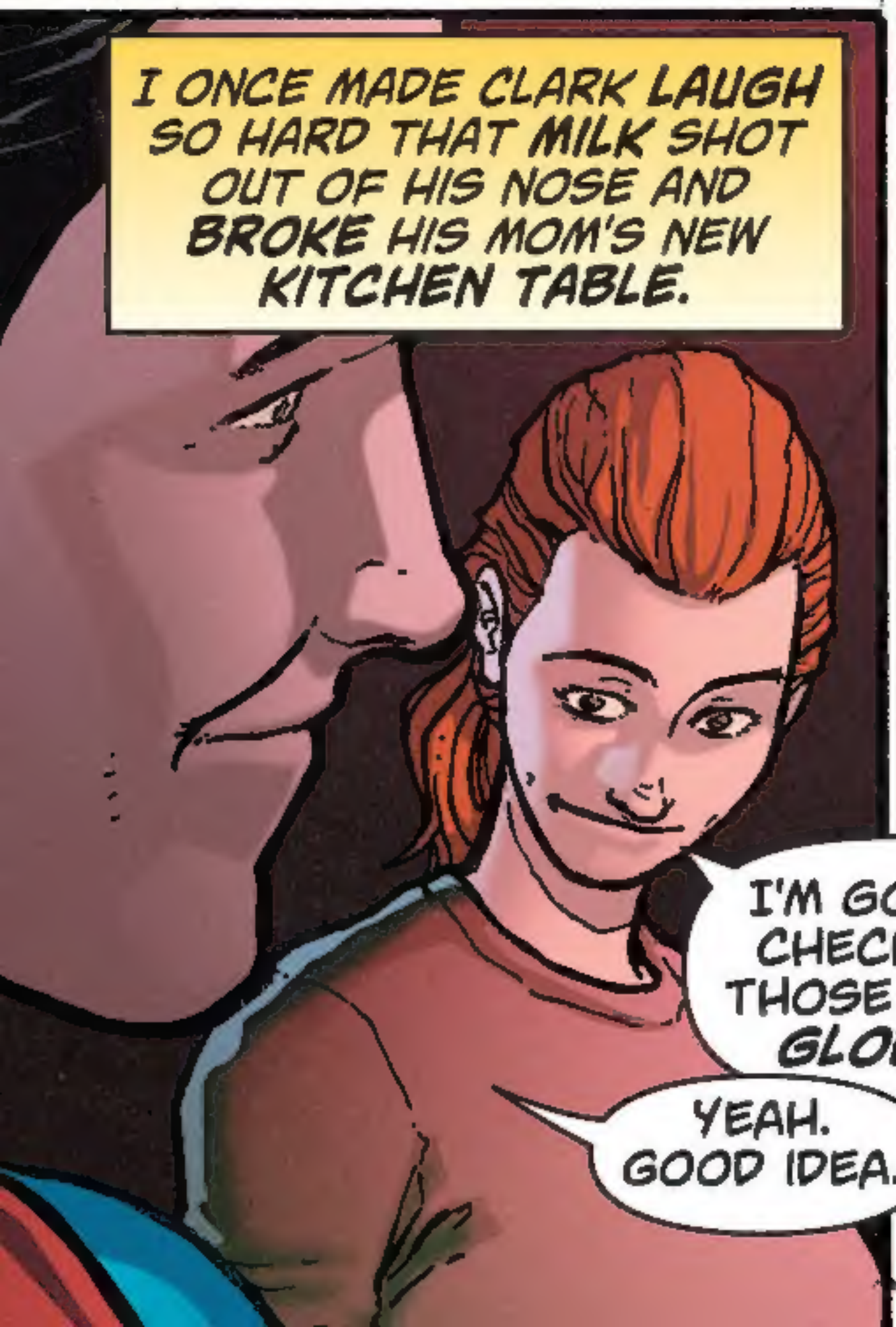
...I
THINK.

THEY'RE...
SMALLER THAN I
REMEMBERED.

EEE!

GROWF.

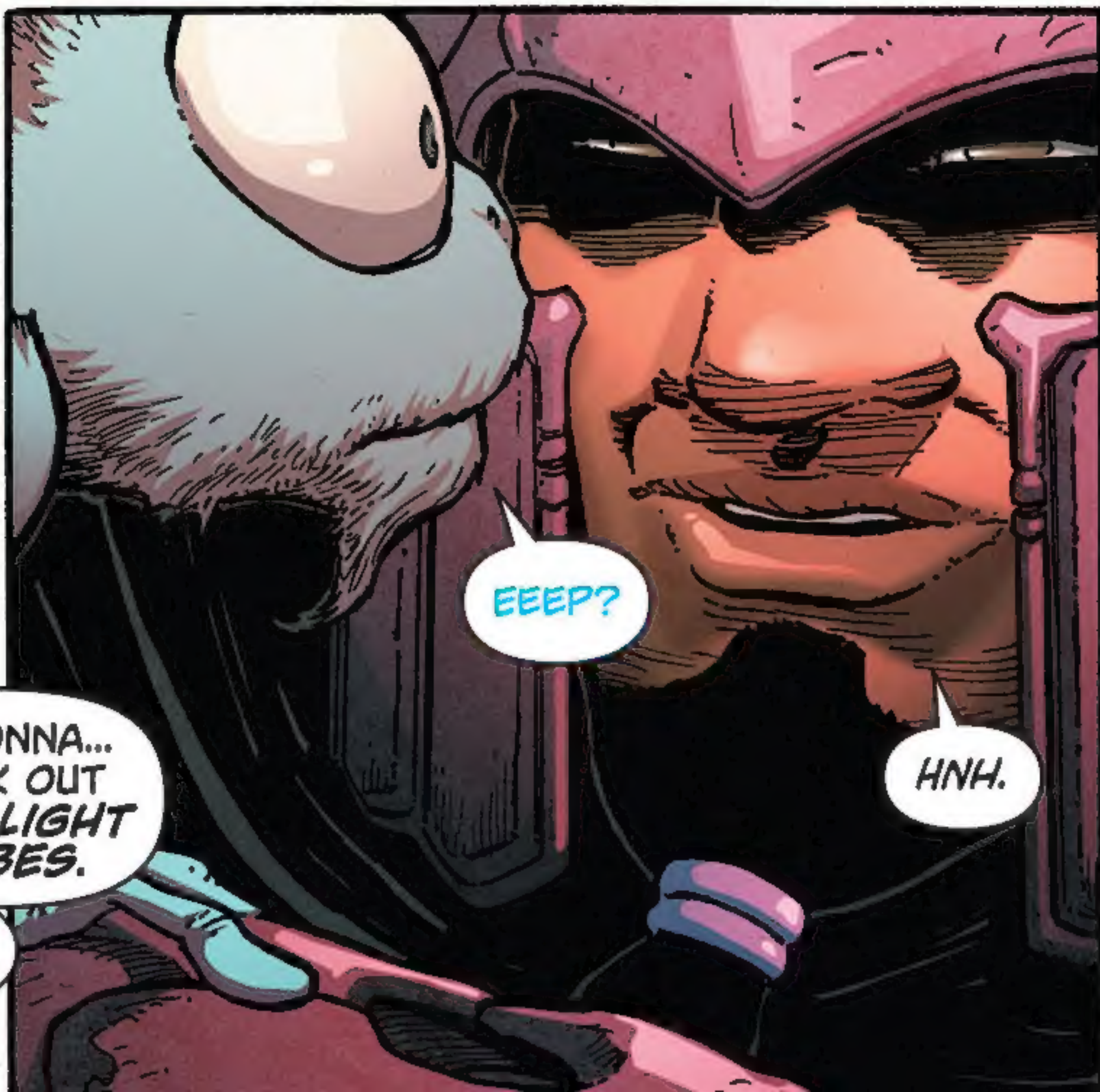
EEP!



I ONCE MADE CLARK LAUGH
SO HARD THAT MILK SHOT
OUT OF HIS NOSE AND
BROKE HIS MOM'S NEW
KITCHEN TABLE.

I'M GONNA...
CHECK OUT
THOSE LIGHT
GLOBES.

YEAH.
GOOD IDEA.

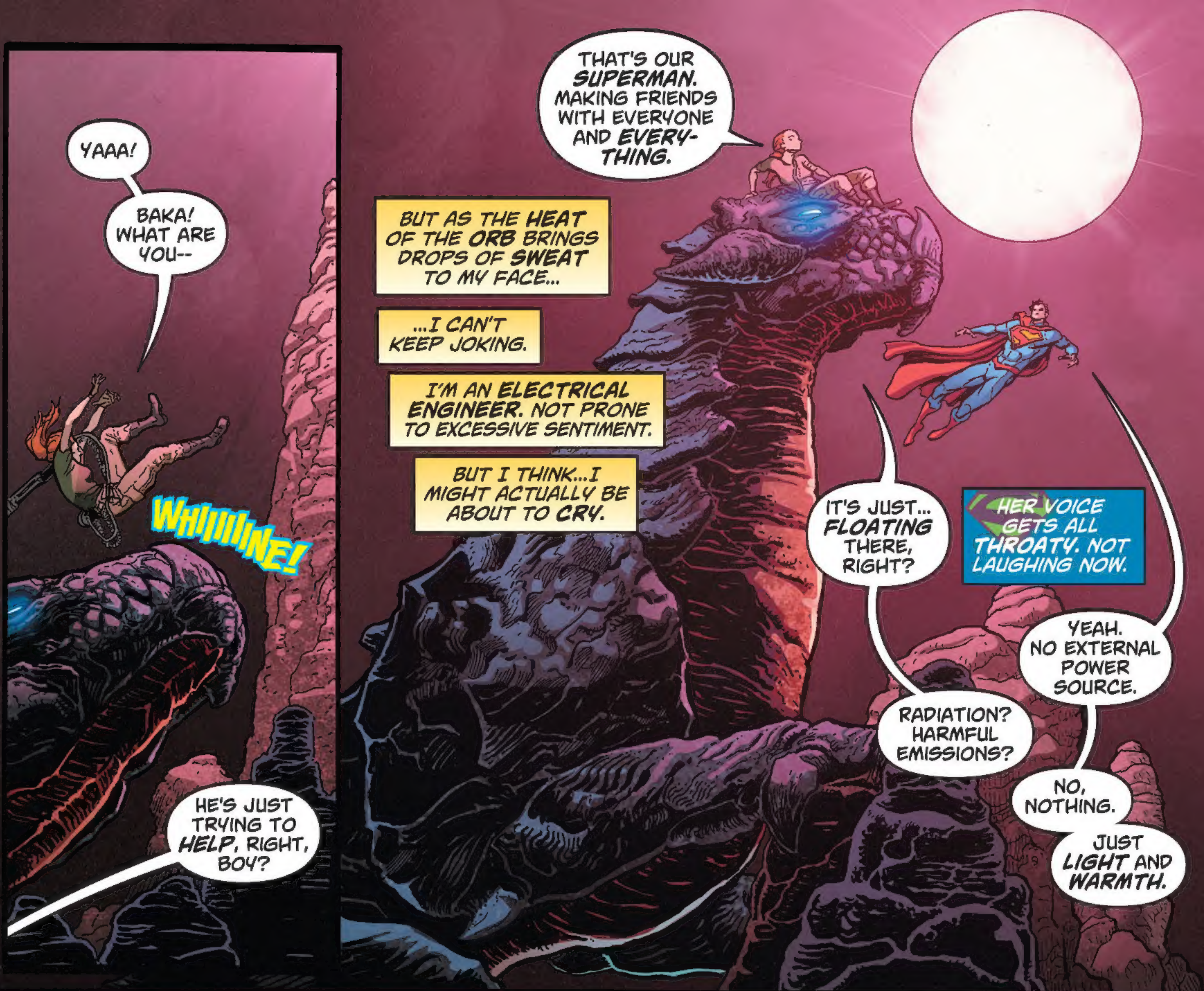


EEEP?

HNH.



NOT GONNA LAUGH
NOT GONNA LAUGH
NOT GONNA LAUGH
NOT GONNA--



YAAA!
BAKA!
WHAT ARE YOU--

THAT'S OUR SUPERMAN.
MAKING FRIENDS WITH EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING.

BUT AS THE HEAT OF THE ORB BRINGS DROPS OF SWEAT TO MY FACE...

...I CAN'T KEEP JOKING.

I'M AN ELECTRICAL ENGINEER. NOT PRONE TO EXCESSIVE SENTIMENT.

BUT I THINK...I MIGHT ACTUALLY BE ABOUT TO CRY.

IT'S JUST... FLOATING THERE, RIGHT?

HER VOICE GETS ALL THROATY. NOT LAUGHING NOW.

YEAH. NO EXTERNAL POWER SOURCE.

RADIATION? HARMFUL EMISSIONS?

NO, NOTHING.

JUST LIGHT AND WARMTH.

HE'S JUST TRYING TO HELP, RIGHT, BOY?

WHIIIIINE!



I CAN BARELY TALK.

IMAGINE THIS KIND OF CLEAN ENERGY REPLACING EVERY REFINERY ON THE PLANET.

YOU REALIZE THAT ACCORDING TO THE LAWS OF THERMODYNAMICS, THIS THING SHOULDN'T EXIST, RIGHT?

YEAH, WELL...NEITHER SHOULD I, PROBABLY.

CLARK'S PROBABLY USED TO THE FEELING...

...BUT THIS IS MY FIRST TASTE OF KNOWING...

...WE'RE ABOUT TO SAVE THE WORLD.



TALK TO UKUR, LITTLE MONSTER.

TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED DOWN HERE WHILE I WAS AWAY.

EEEP!

EEEP!

EEEP!



EEEP!

UH, OH...

UJSAH7U4!

EEEP!

EEEP!



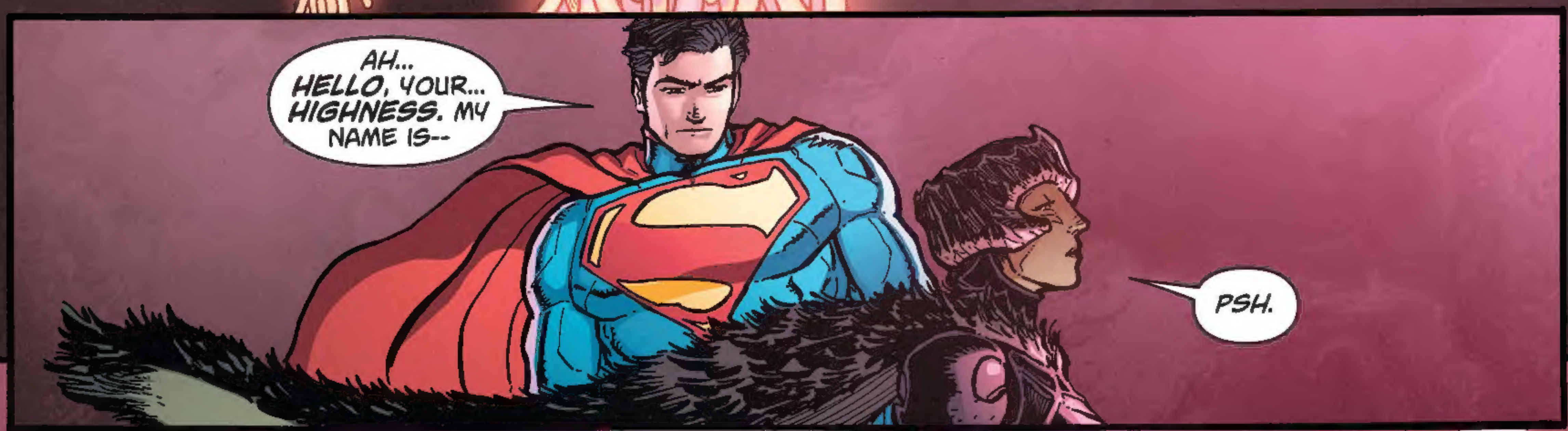
י אַ
אַלסאַ, פֿירן די
פֿירן פֿירן!

THE
SCOUTS HEARD
THEM SPEAK
ENGLISH, YOUR
HIGHNESS.

AH. LET'S
TRY THIS
AGAIN...

...I AM
KOKYA, QUEEN OF
SUBTERRANEA!

AND I GIVE
YOU THANKS FOR
BREAKING THE SEAL
THAT HAS TRAPPED
MY PEOPLE FOR SO
MANY AGES!



AH...
HELLO, YOUR...
HIGHNESS. MY
NAME IS--

PSH.



UPLANDER...

QUEEN
KOKYA.

YOUR
SLAVE IS...
HOVERING.

WHA--

AH.
RIGHT.

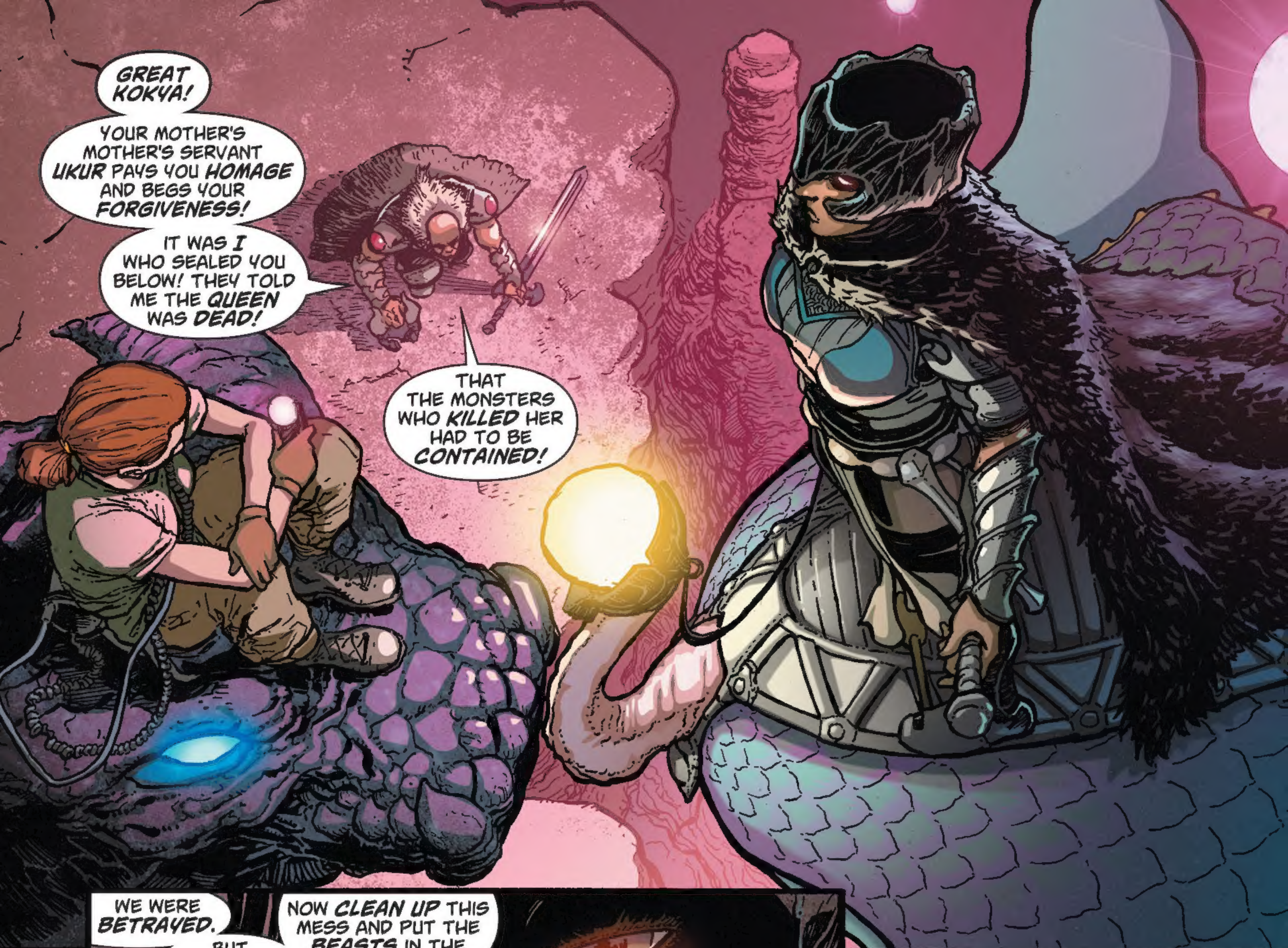
SUPERMAN.
BACK OFF,
BUDDY.

WOW.

OKAY.

MATRIARCHY,
HUH?

I CAN DIG
IT.



GREAT
KOKYA!

YOUR MOTHER'S
MOTHER'S SERVANT
UKUR PAYS YOU HOMAGE
AND BEGS YOUR
FORGIVENESS!

IT WAS I
WHO SEALED YOU
BELOW! THEY TOLD
ME THE QUEEN
WAS DEAD!

THAT
THE MONSTERS
WHO KILLED HER
HAD TO BE
CONTAINED!

WE WERE
BETRAYED.

BUT
AFTER ALL
THESE YEARS,
I FORGIVE.

NOW CLEAN UP THIS
MESS AND PUT THE
BEASTS IN THE
STABLES.

QUEEN
OF THE
UPLANDS!

COME TO THE
CASTLE, WHERE
WE CAN GIVE YOU
OUR PROPER THANKS
AND DISCUSS OUR
FUTURE.

IS THIS
ONE YOUR
CONSORT?

BRING
HIM, IF YOU
LIKE.

CONSORT?

UH.
ACTUALLY,
HE'S JUST
A...



FRIEND?

...SLAVE.

CUTE.



HNH.
REALLY?

YOU
SMELL LIKE
A MATED
PAIR.



OOOKAY...

YEAH,
ANYWAY.

EVERY SINGLE
THING I SEE DOWN
HERE BLOWS MY
MIND.

BUT IT'S THE DOZENS
OF FLOATING ENERGY
ORBS THAT KEEP MY
HEART HAMMERING OUT
THIS CRAZY SKA BEAT.

WE'RE GOING
TO DO THIS,
CLARK.

WE'RE REALLY
GOING TO DO
THIS.



GHOST
SOLDIER, THIS
IS TOWER
COMMAND.

WE'VE
LOST YOUR
VID FEED. WHAT
ARE YOU
SEEING?

A WHOLE
CIVILIZATION,
TOWER
COMMAND...





...PROBABLY THOUSANDS OF YEARS OLD, JUDGING BY THE STONE-WORK...

WHATEVER YOU DO, DO NOT LET SUPERMAN ESTABLISH FIRST CONTACT!

LITTLE TOO LATE FOR THAT.

DAMMIT.



BUT IF IT'S ANY CONSOLATION, THE QUEEN'S ONLY SPEAKING TO LANG.



LANALANG?

ACTUALLY, IT'S LANA. LANG. TWO SEPARATE--

YES. LANALANG.

YEEEEAH.



AND LANG'S AFTER THE ENERGY ORBS, CORRECT?

YES. THEY'RE GENERATING INCREDIBLE--



WE KNOW. WE'RE GETTING THE READOUTS.

ANY CLUE REGARDING THE ORIGIN OF THE ENERGY?

NO SOLID EVIDENCE YET.



BUT NOTHING COMES FOR FREE.



ENJOY YOURSELF, LANALANG.

RIGHT. THANKS.

WE'LL FEAST IN AN HOUR.

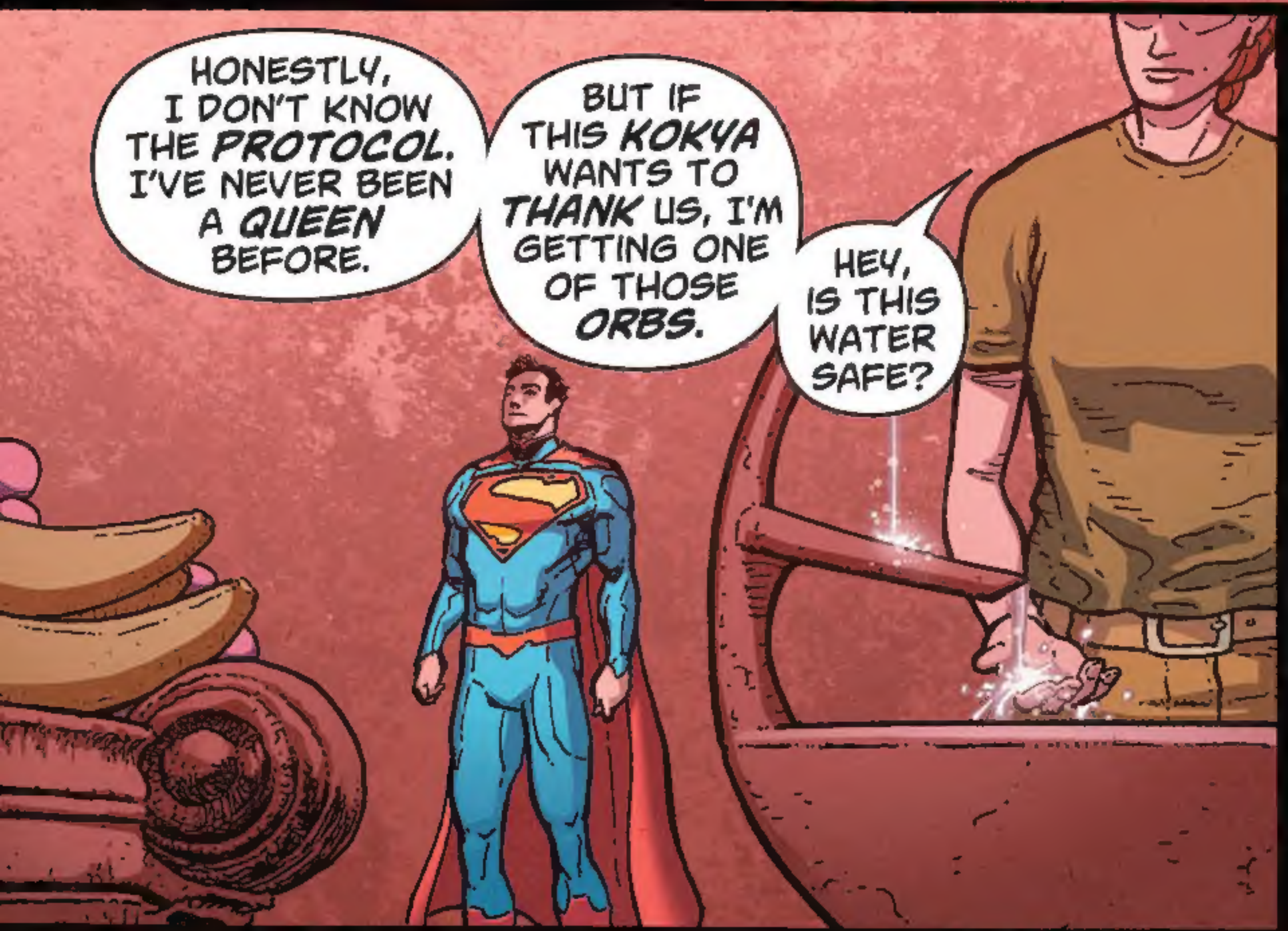
"LANALANG"...

YEAH, SHUT UP.

SO, WHAT'S THE PLAN, "BOSS"?

WELL. IF THAT **BED** WERE A LITTLE BIGGER, I'D TAKE A **NAP**.

HEH.



HONESTLY, I DON'T KNOW THE **PROTOCOL**. I'VE NEVER BEEN A **QUEEN** BEFORE.

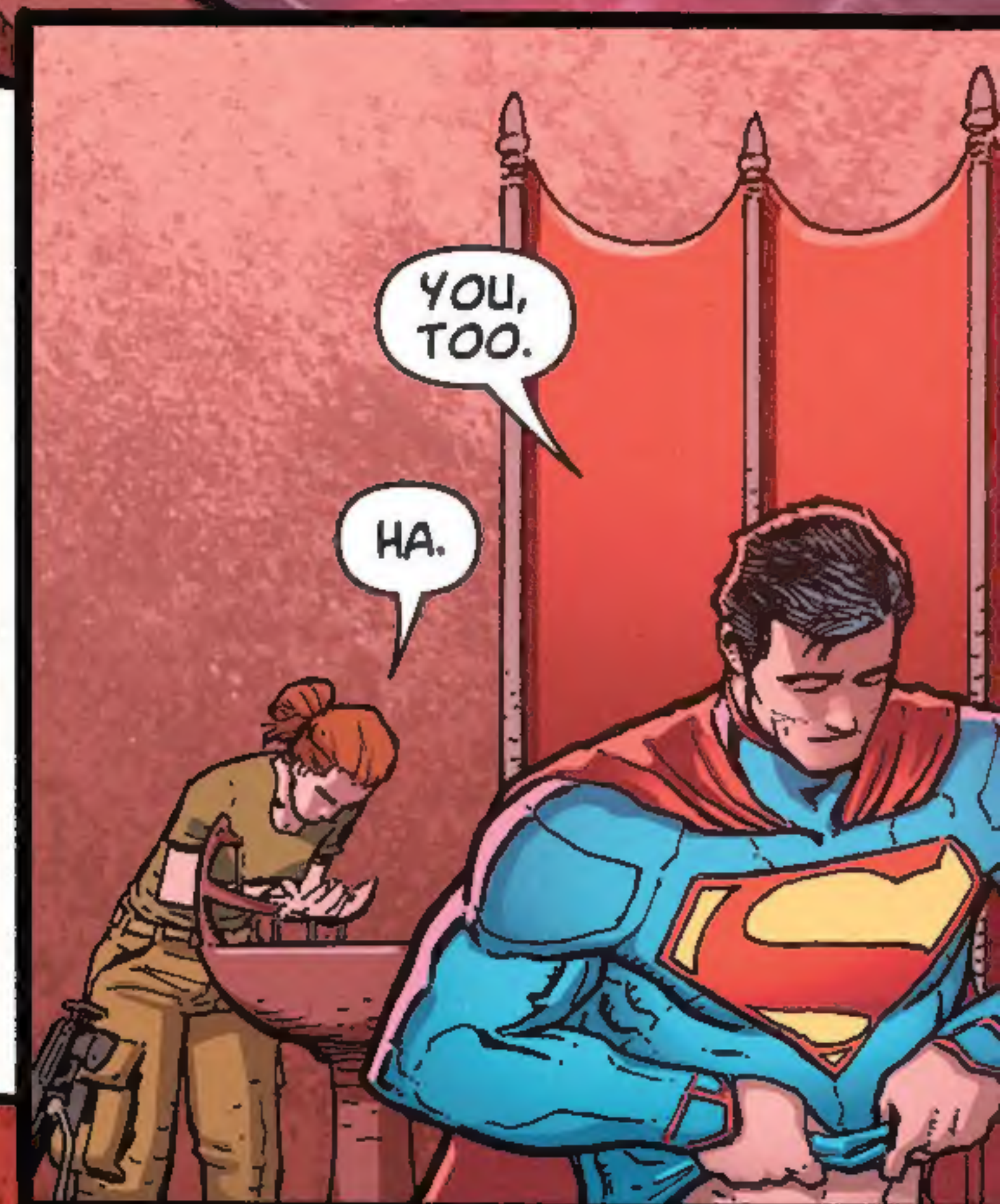
BUT IF THIS **KOKYA** WANTS TO **THANK** US, I'M GETTING ONE OF THOSE **ORBS**.

HEY, IS THIS WATER SAFE?



NO PARASITES OR IMPURITIES. I DON'T THINK THEY'RE TRYING TO POISON US.

SWEET. TURN YOUR BACK.



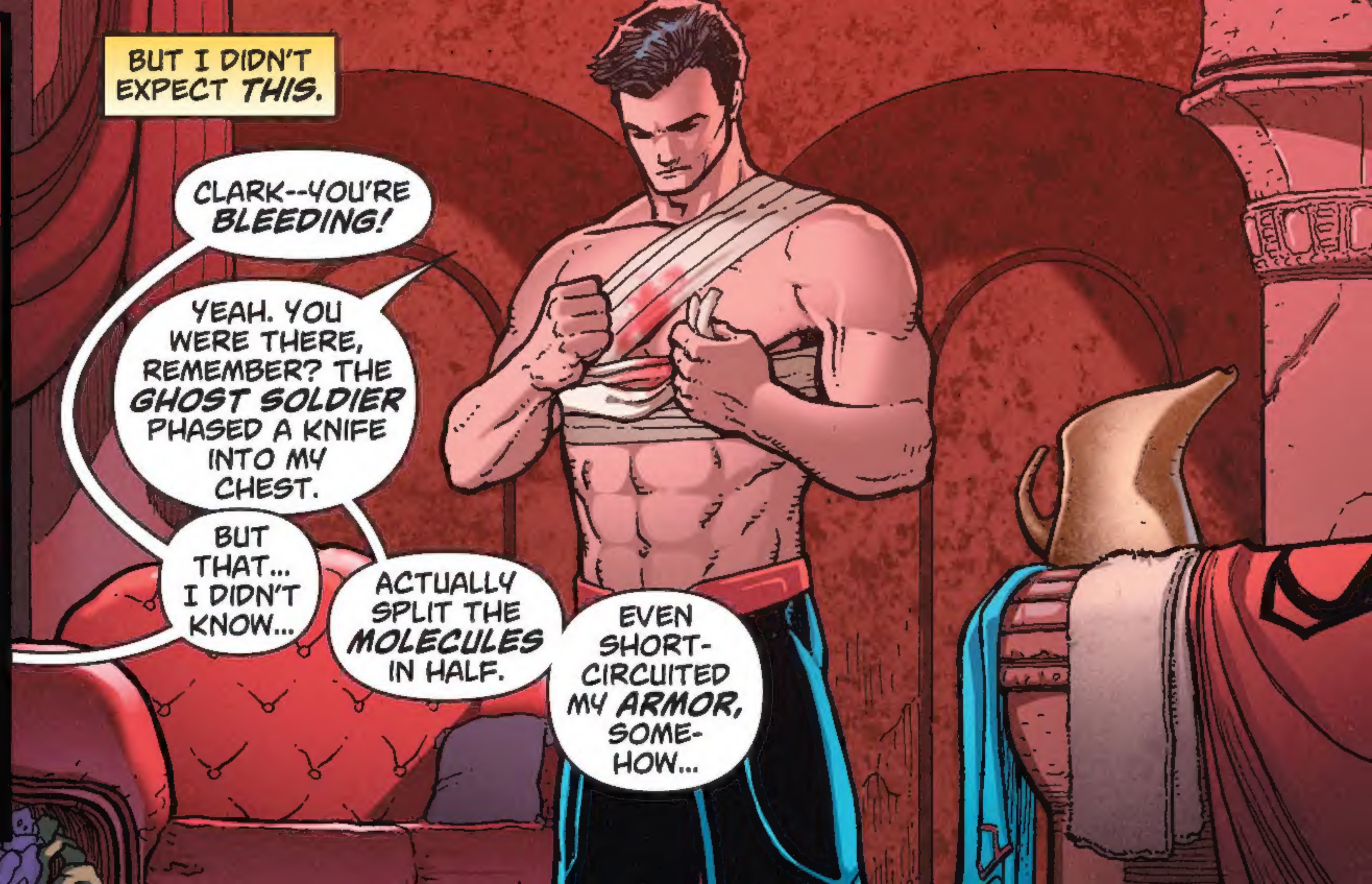
YOU, TOO.

HA.



WHAT? I'M ONLY **HUMAN**.

NOT EVERY DAY YOU GET TO **EYEBALL** THE **WORLD'S FINEST**.



BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT **THIS**.

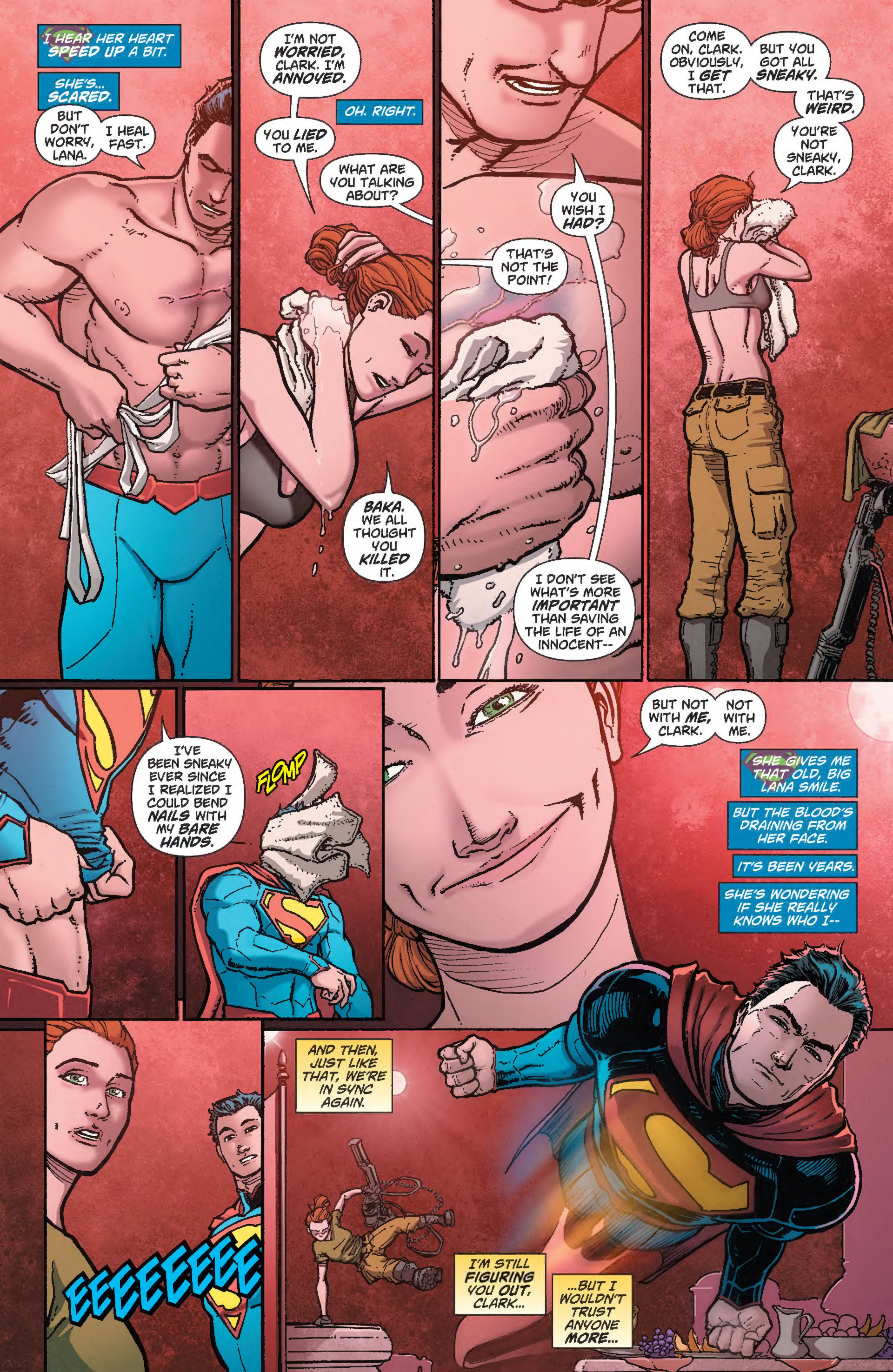
CLARK--YOU'RE **BLEEDING**!

YEAH. YOU WERE THERE, REMEMBER? THE **GHOST SOLDIER** PHASED A KNIFE INTO MY CHEST.

BUT THAT... I DIDN'T KNOW...

ACTUALLY SPLIT THE **MOLECULES** IN HALF.

EVEN SHORT-CIRCUITED MY **ARMOR**, SOMEHOW...



I HEAR HER HEART SPEED UP A BIT.

SHE'S... SCARED.

BUT DON'T WORRY, LANA.

I HEAL FAST.

I'M NOT WORRIED, CLARK. I'M ANNOYED.

OH. RIGHT.

YOU LIED TO ME.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

BAKA. WE ALL THOUGHT YOU KILLED IT.

YOU WISH I HAD?

THAT'S NOT THE POINT!

I DON'T SEE WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN SAVING THE LIFE OF AN INNOCENT--

COME ON, CLARK. OBVIOUSLY, I GET THAT.

BUT YOU GOT ALL SNEAKY.

THAT'S WEIRD.

YOU'RE NOT SNEAKY, CLARK.

I'VE BEEN SNEAKY EVER SINCE I REALIZED I COULD BEND NAILS WITH MY BARE HANDS.

FLOMP

BUT NOT WITH ME, CLARK.

NOT WITH ME.

SHE GIVES ME THAT OLD, BIG LANA SMILE.

BUT THE BLOOD'S DRAINING FROM HER FACE.

IT'S BEEN YEARS.

SHE'S WONDERING IF SHE REALLY KNOWS WHO I--

AND THEN, JUST LIKE THAT, WE'RE IN SYNC AGAIN.

I'M STILL FIGURING YOU OUT, CLARK...

...BUT I WOULDN'T TRUST ANYONE MORE...

EEEEEEEEEE

...WHEN THERE'S
A JOB FOR
SUPERMAN.

EEEEEEEEEE!



LANA.
THAT **ENERGY**.
WHICH WAY IS IT
TRAVELING?

YEAH. GOD.
THEY'RE...THEY'RE
DRAINING THE
LITTLE GUY...

A MILLION
WARNING BELLS
START CLANGING
IN MY HEAD

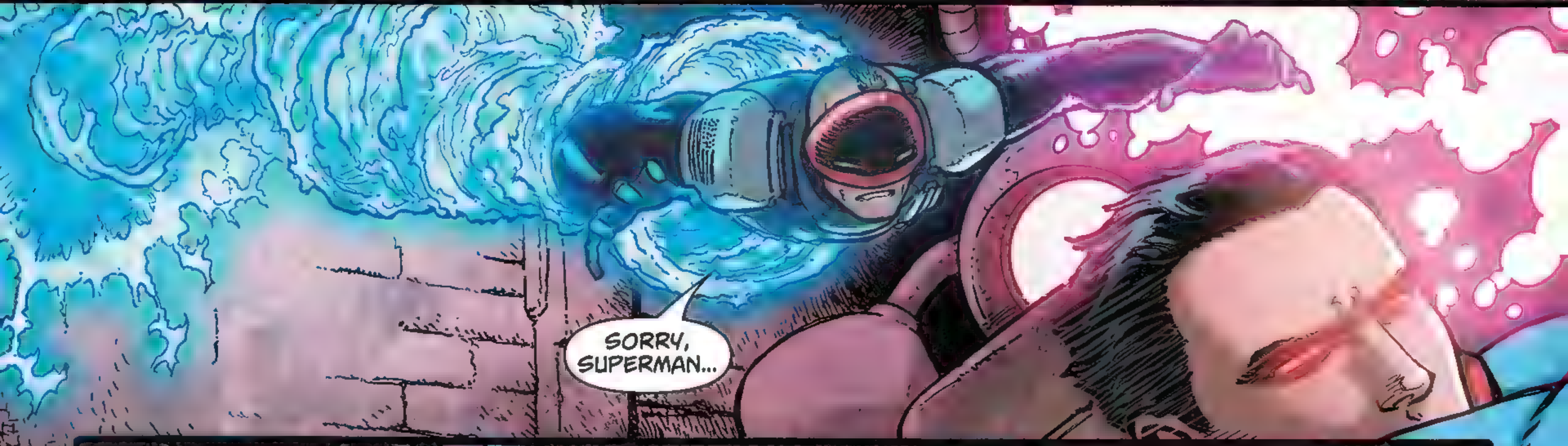
BRUCE WOULD SAY
WATCH. WAIT.



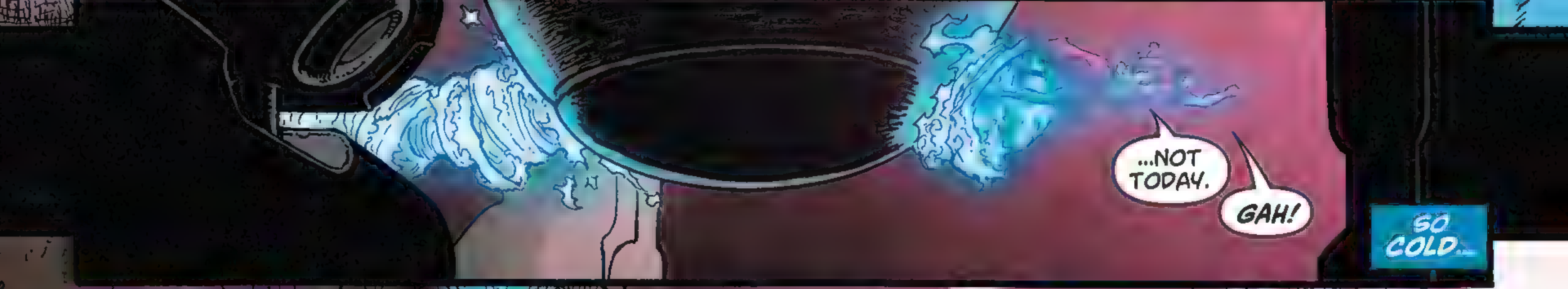


EEEEEEEEEE!

TO HELL
WITH THAT



SORRY,
SUPERMAN...



...NOT
TODAY.

GAH!

SO
COLD...



THIS TIME
HE'S TURNING ME
'INTANGIBLE

PHASING US
RIGHT THROUGH
THE BUILDING!

GHOST
SOLDIER!

WE DON'T
HAVE TIME
FOR THIS!

THEY'RE
MURDERERS!



YOU DON'T THINK I KNOW THAT?

THEN WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

YOU'LL REGAIN YOUR CORPOREAL STATE IN A FEW SECONDS. FOR NOW, JUST LISTEN.

GHOST SOLDIER, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? FINISH HIM!

SUPERMAN...

GHOST SOLDIER! DO NOT-- REPEAT--DO NOT REMOVE YOUR--

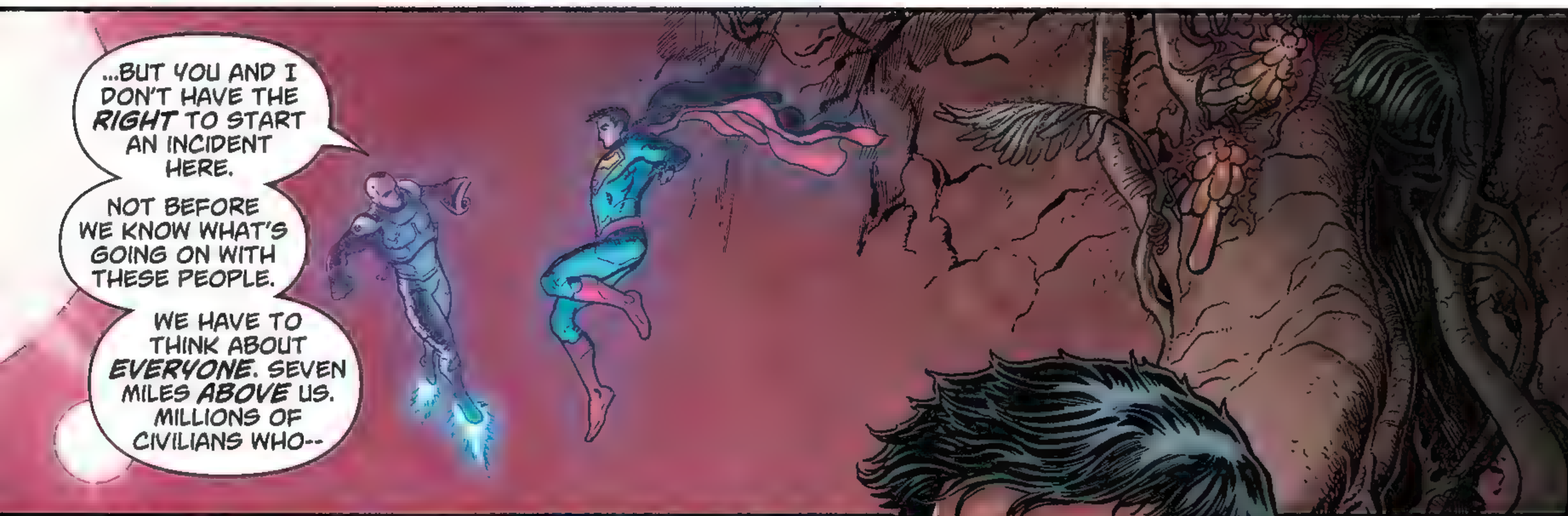


...MY NAME IS LEONARD SAWYER. MAHICAN NATION. STOCKBRIDGE, WISCONSIN.

I'VE BEEN A SOLDIER FOR A LONG TIME.

AND I'VE SEEN A THOUSAND THINGS WORSE THAN THIS.

I'M NOT SAYING I LIKE IT...



...BUT YOU AND I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO START AN INCIDENT HERE.

NOT BEFORE WE KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THESE PEOPLE.

WE HAVE TO THINK ABOUT EVERYONE. SEVEN MILES ABOVE US. MILLIONS OF CIVILIANS WHO--



EEEEEEEEEEEEE!

HE'S RIGHT, OF COURSE.

YOU CAN'T PREDICT THE OUTCOME OF EVERY ACTION.

YOU CAN'T STOP EVERY INJUSTICE SIMULTANEOUSLY.

BUT YOU HAVE
TO TRY, DON'T
YOU?



GET A GOOD
LOOK AT THE
CONSEQUENCES.

I HAVE A SUDDEN
HORRIBLE VISION
OF AN ARMY OF
THESE STONE
AUTOMATONS
CLAWING THEIR
WAY TO THE
SURFACE.

EVEN IF JUST
ONE OF THEM
MADE IT...

...HOW MANY
PEOPLE COULD
IT KILL?

HOW MANY
INNOCENTS
WOULD DIE?

EEEP!

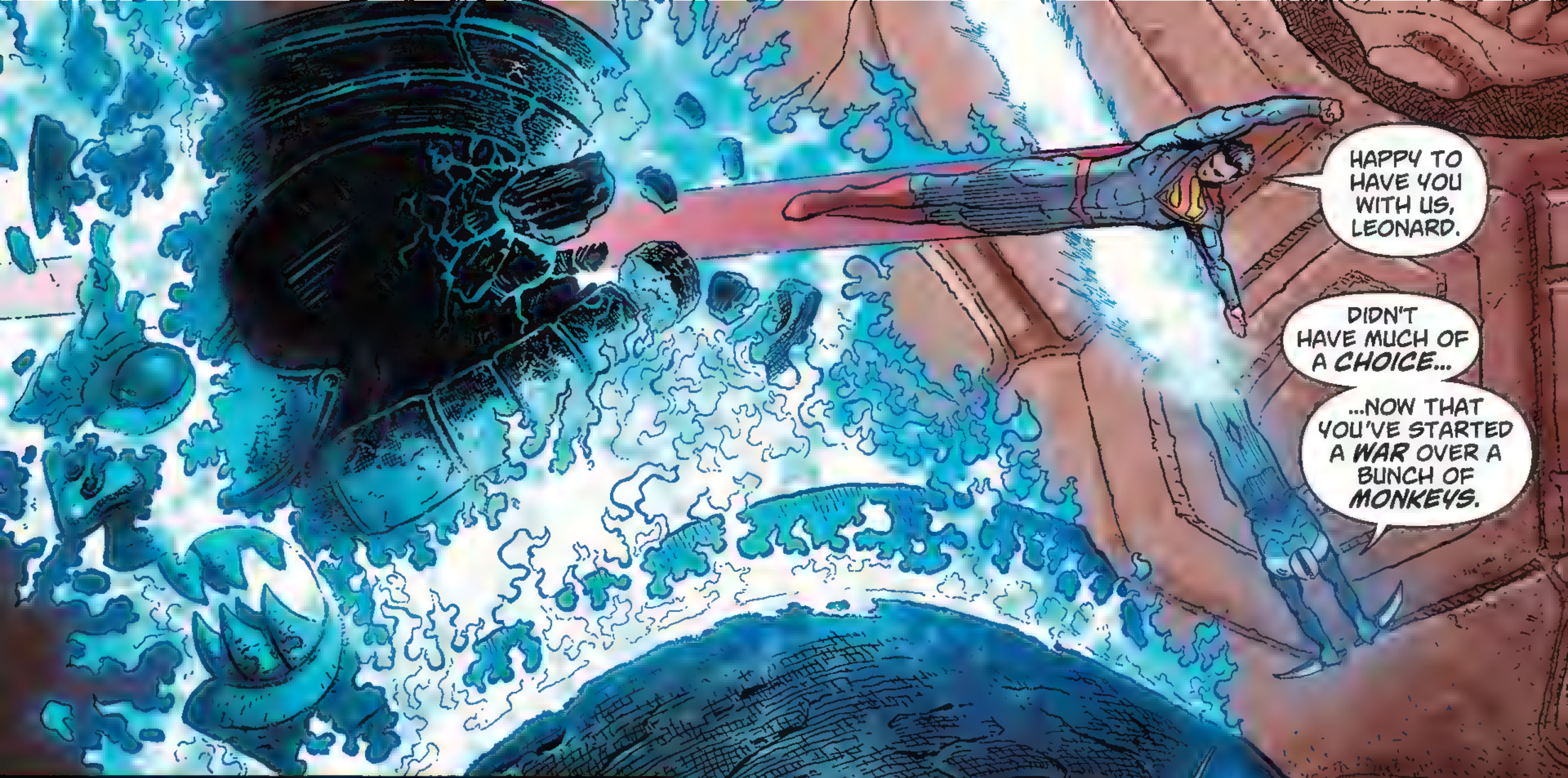
EEEEEP!

EEEP!

EEEEEEE!

I'M NOT
ALONE IN THIS
FIGHT.





HAPPY TO HAVE YOU WITH US, LEONARD.

DIDN'T HAVE MUCH OF A CHOICE...

...NOW THAT YOU'VE STARTED A WAR OVER A BUNCH OF MONKEYS.



THEY ACTUALLY LOOK A LITTLE MORE LIKE LEMURS TO ME.

NOT THE BEST COMEBACK.

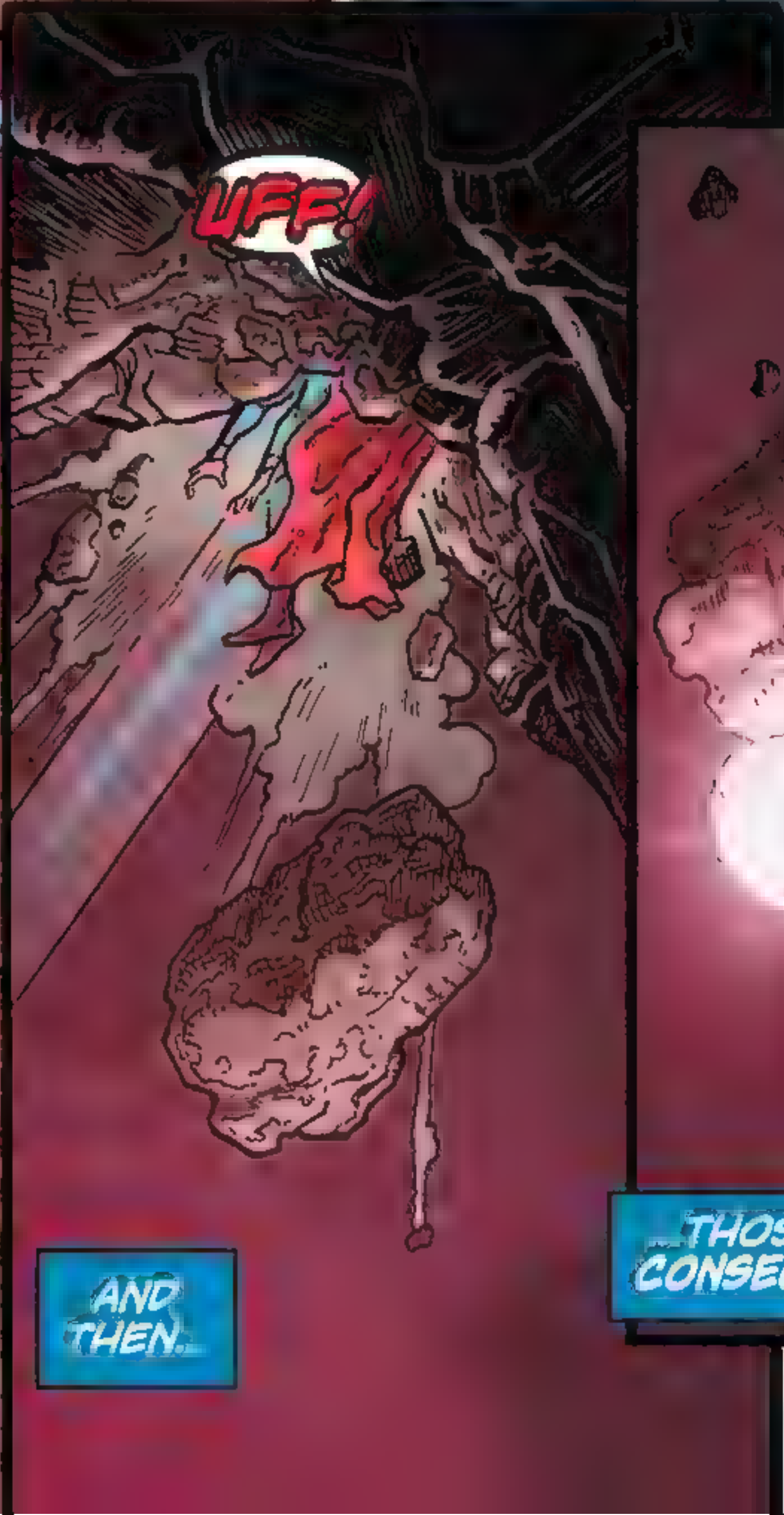


BUT HE'S NOT MUCH FOR REPARTEE, ANYWAY.

FINE WITH ME.

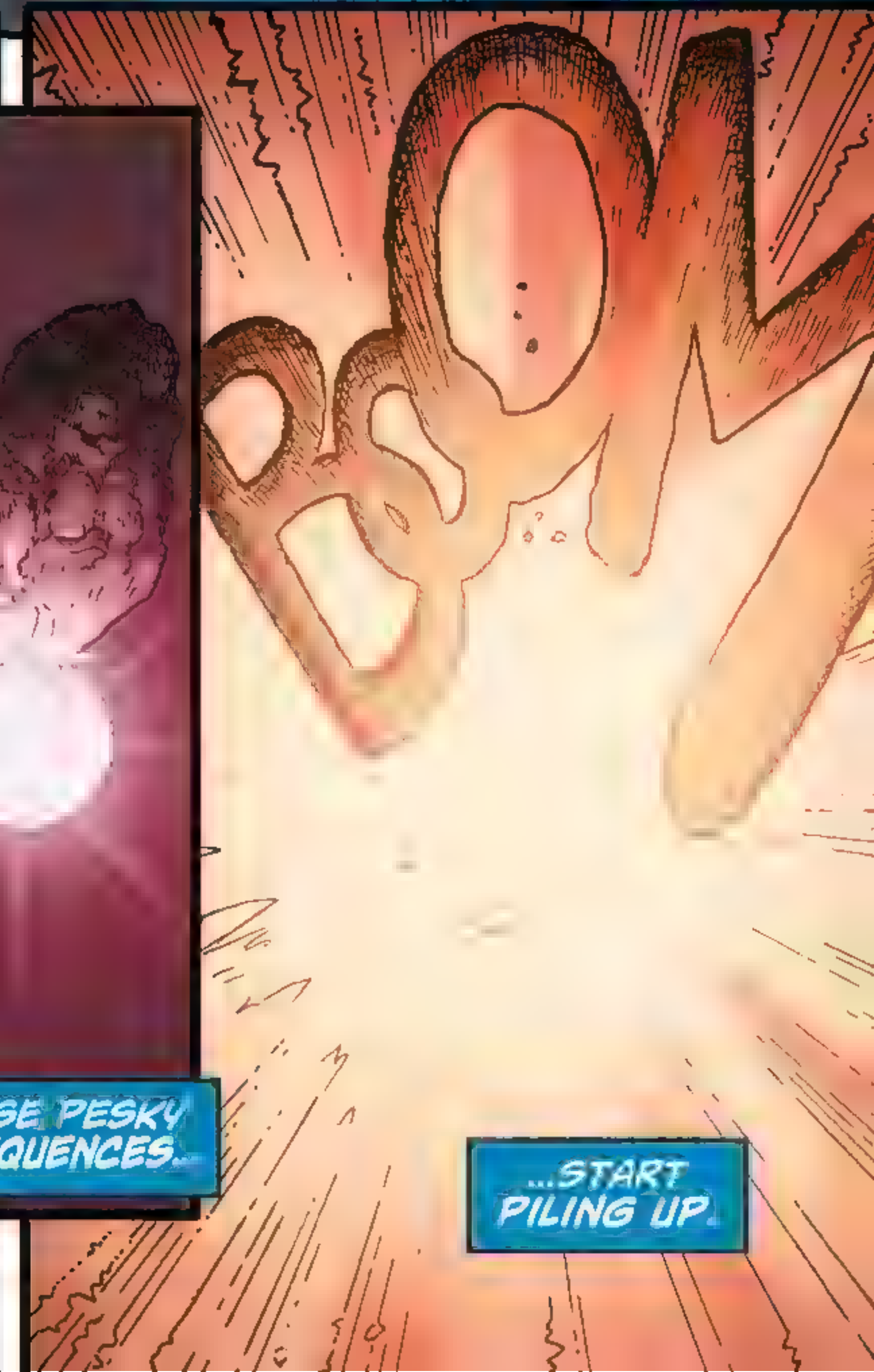


I'VE GOT ENOUGH ON MY HANDS AT THE MOMENT.



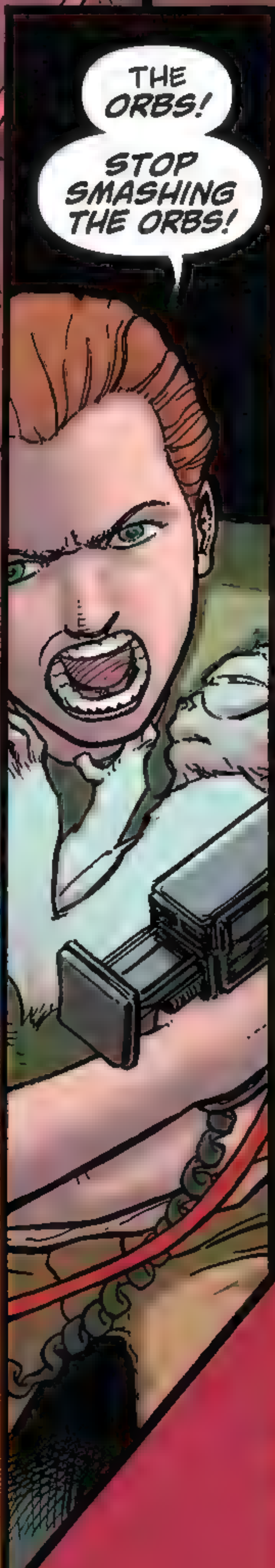
UFF!

AND THEN...



THOSE PESKY CONSEQUENCES.

...START PILING UP.



THE ORBS!
STOP SMASHING THE ORBS!

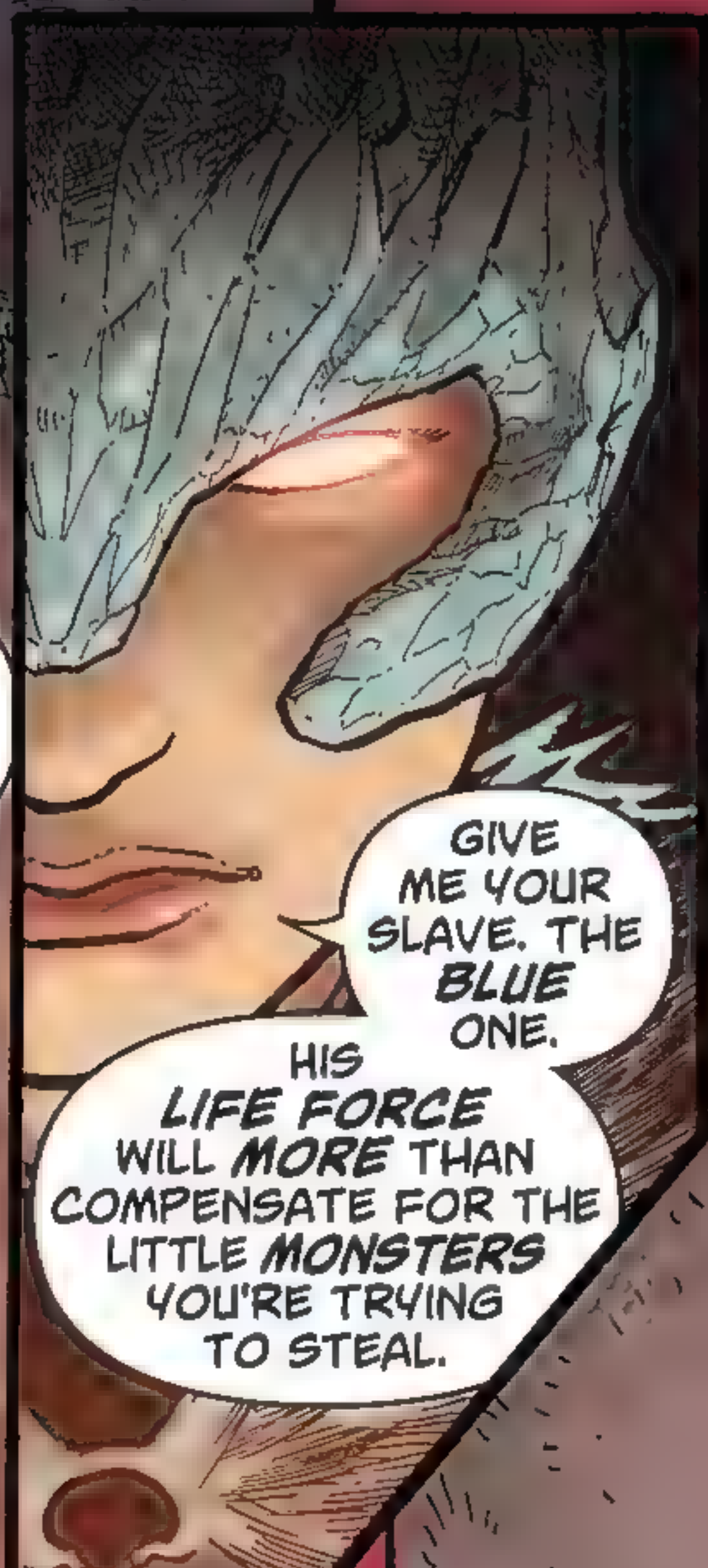


AGREED.
THEY'RE TOO PRECIOUS TO LOSE IN A STUPID FIGHT LIKE THIS.
LET'S MAKE A DEAL, LANA-LANG.



AAAAAGH!

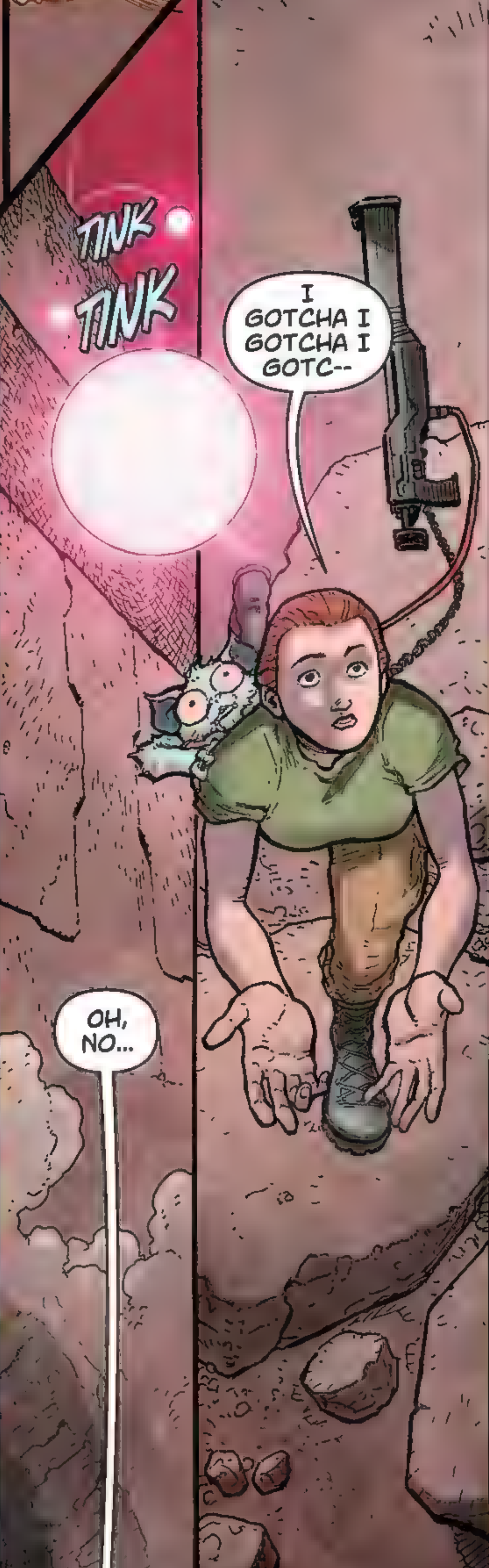
BO
R
ZZZ



GIVE ME YOUR SLAVE. THE BLUE ONE.
HIS LIFE FORCE WILL MORE THAN COMPENSATE FOR THE LITTLE MONSTERS YOU'RE TRYING TO STEAL.



EEEEEE...



TINK
TINK

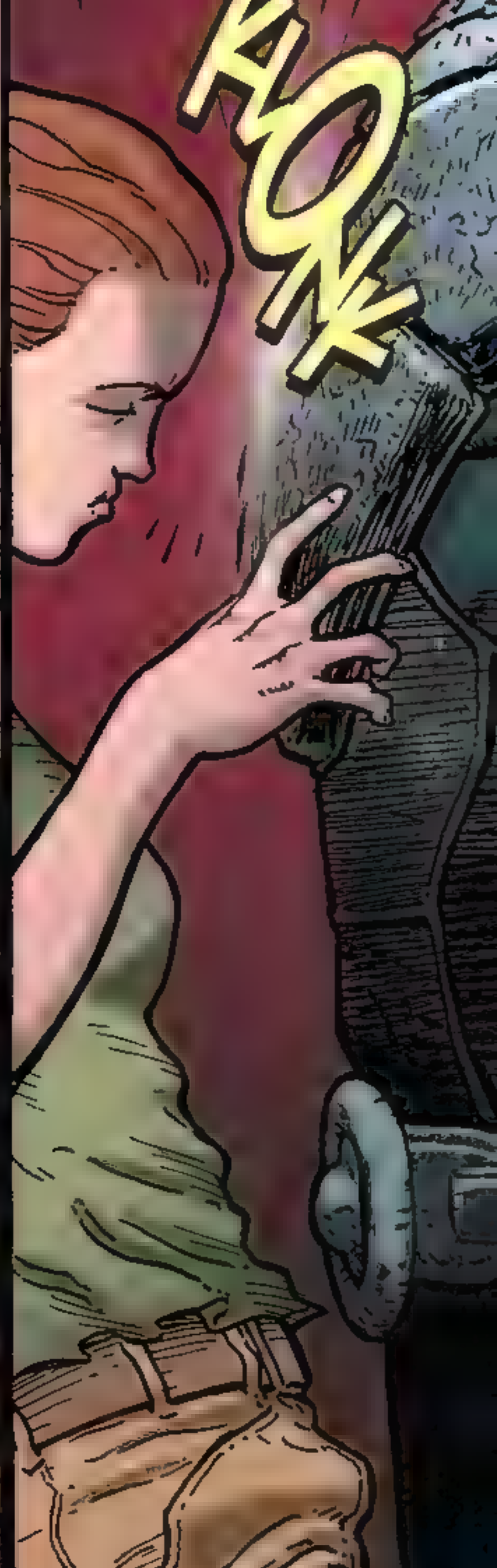
I GOTCHA I GOTCHA I GOTC--

OH, NO...

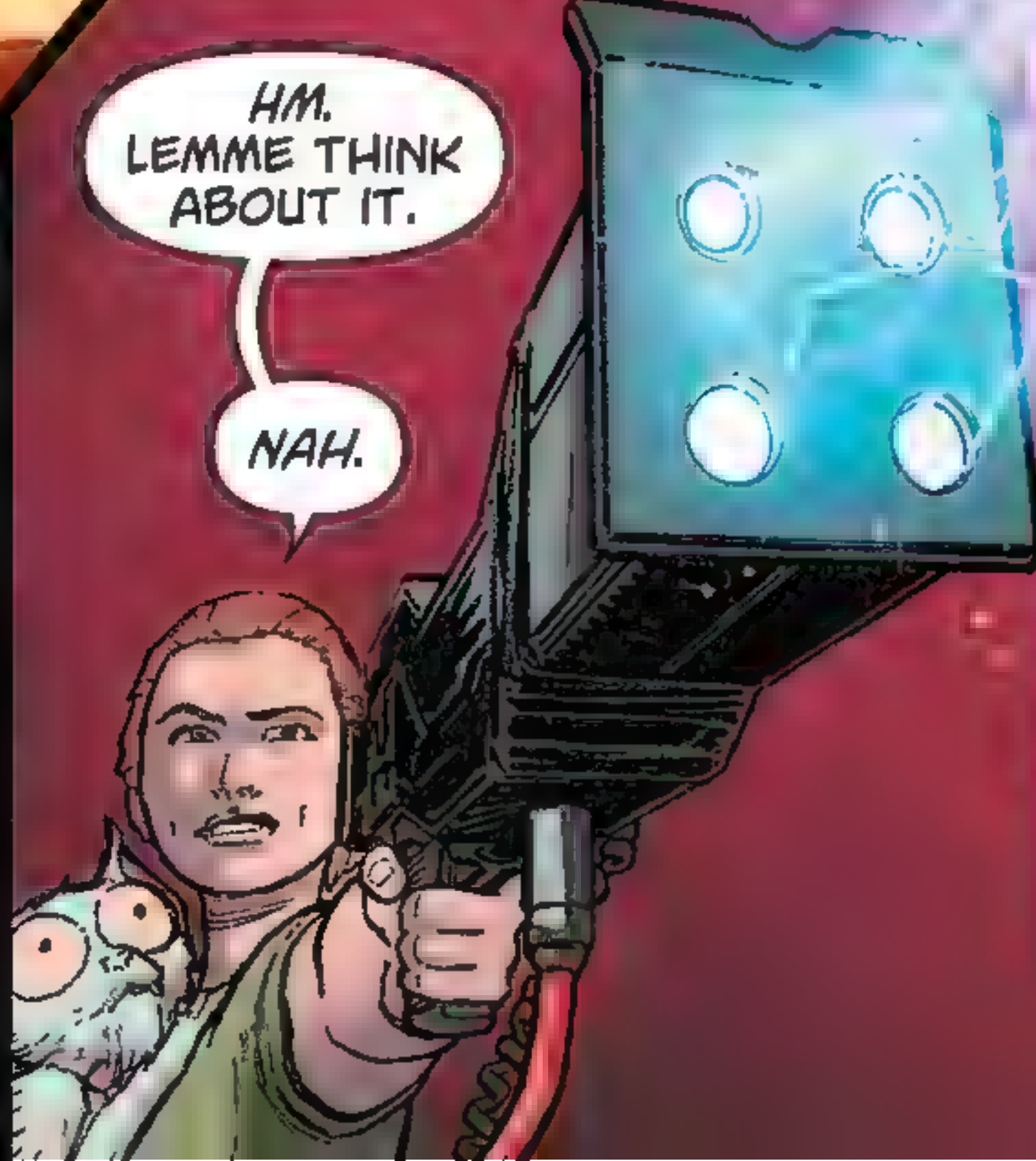


OW!

STUPID UPLANDER.
YOU'RE NOT REALLY A QUEEN AT ALL, ARE YOU?

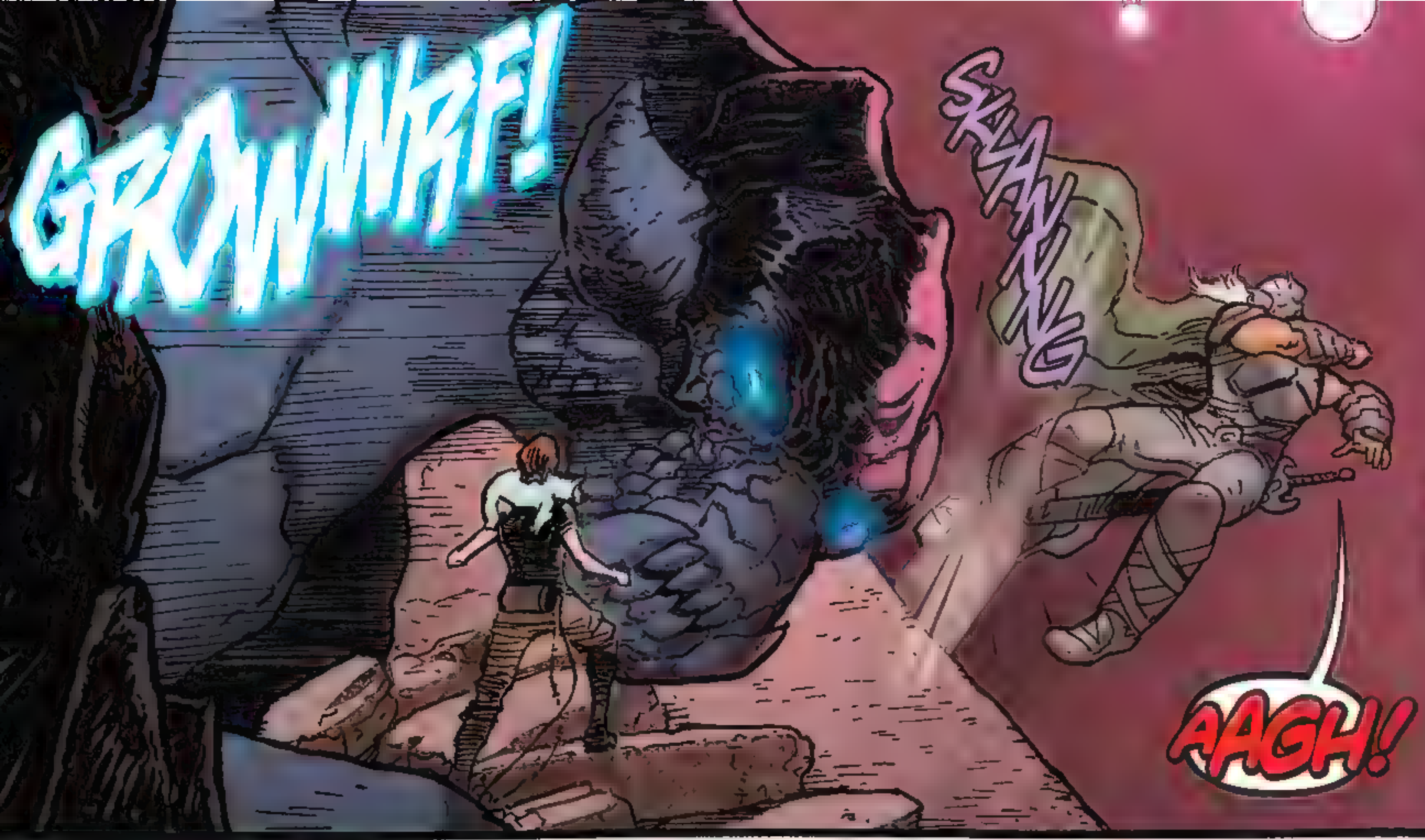


KO
NK



HM. LEMME THINK ABOUT IT.

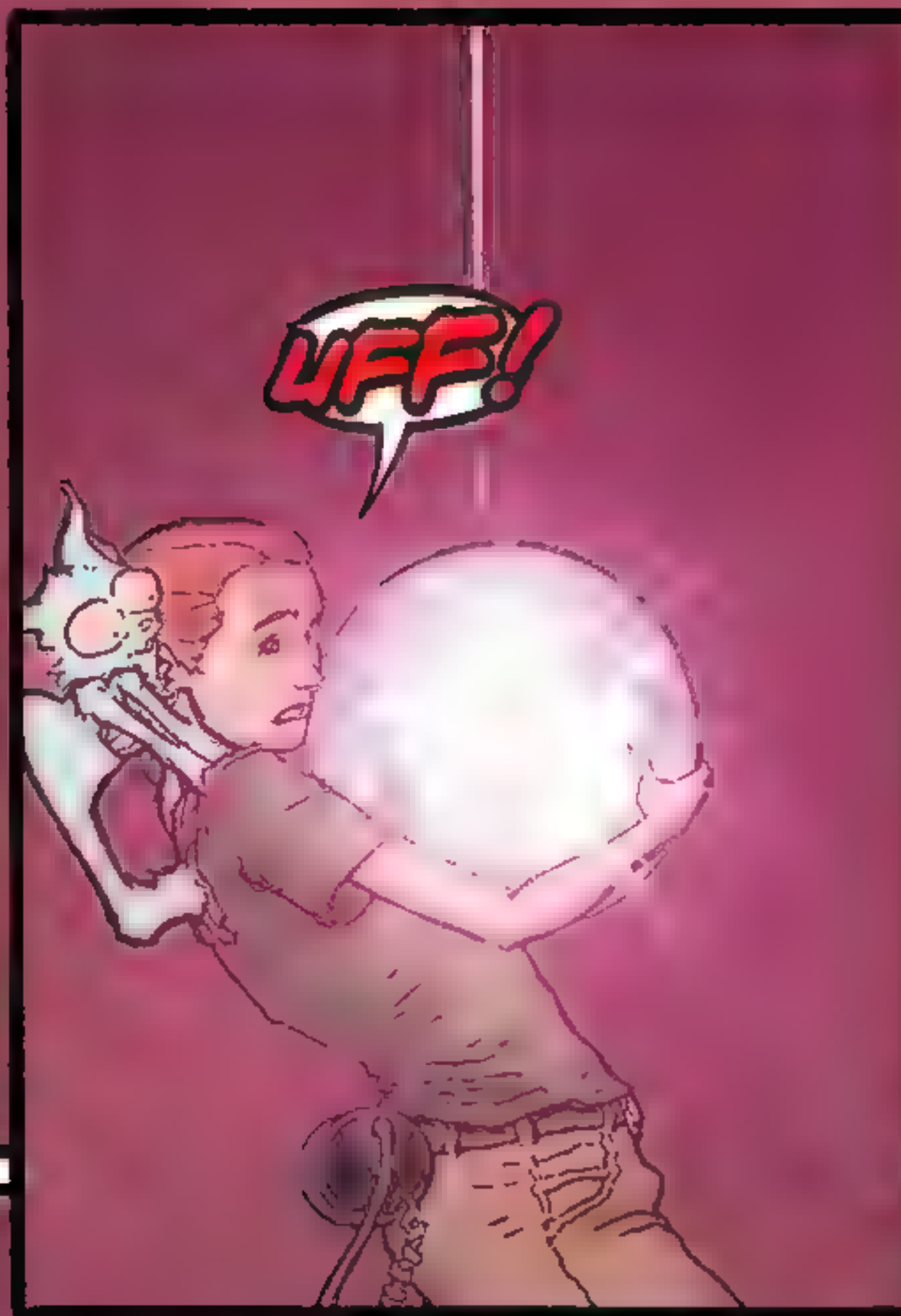
NAH.



GROWNRRF!

SKAANG

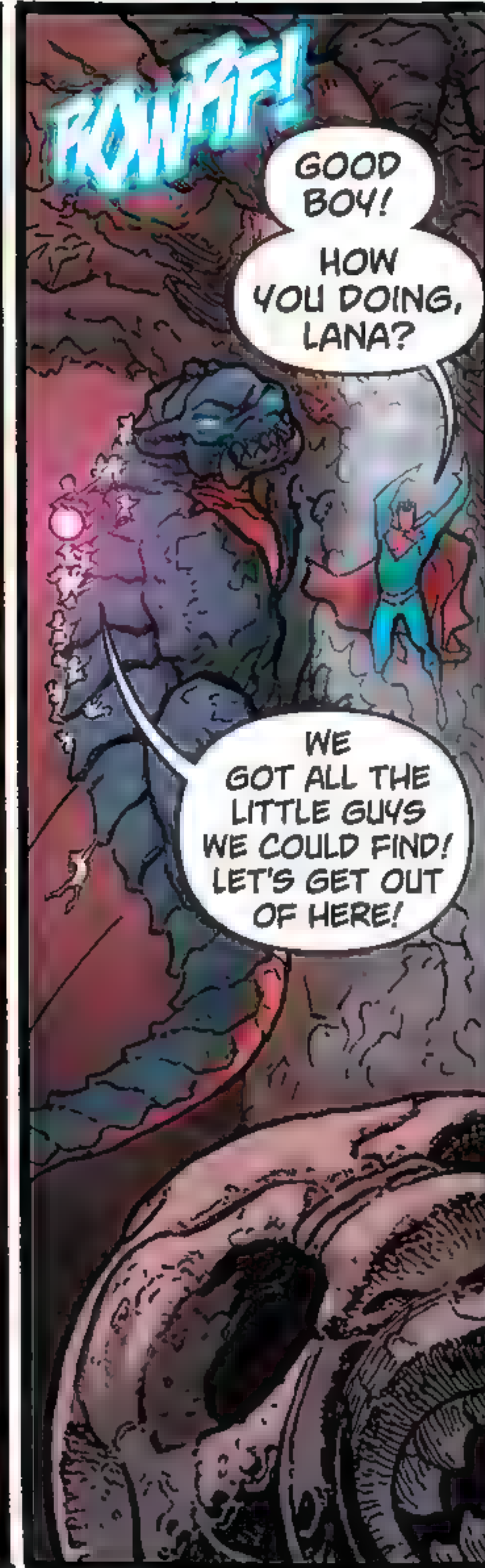
AAGH!



UFF!



BAKA!
THIS WAY!



ROWRRF!

GOOD
BOY!
HOW
YOU DOING,
LANA?

WE
GOT ALL THE
LITTLE GUYS
WE COULD FIND!
LET'S GET OUT
OF HERE!



SEE YOU
GOT ANOTHER
SOUVENIR.

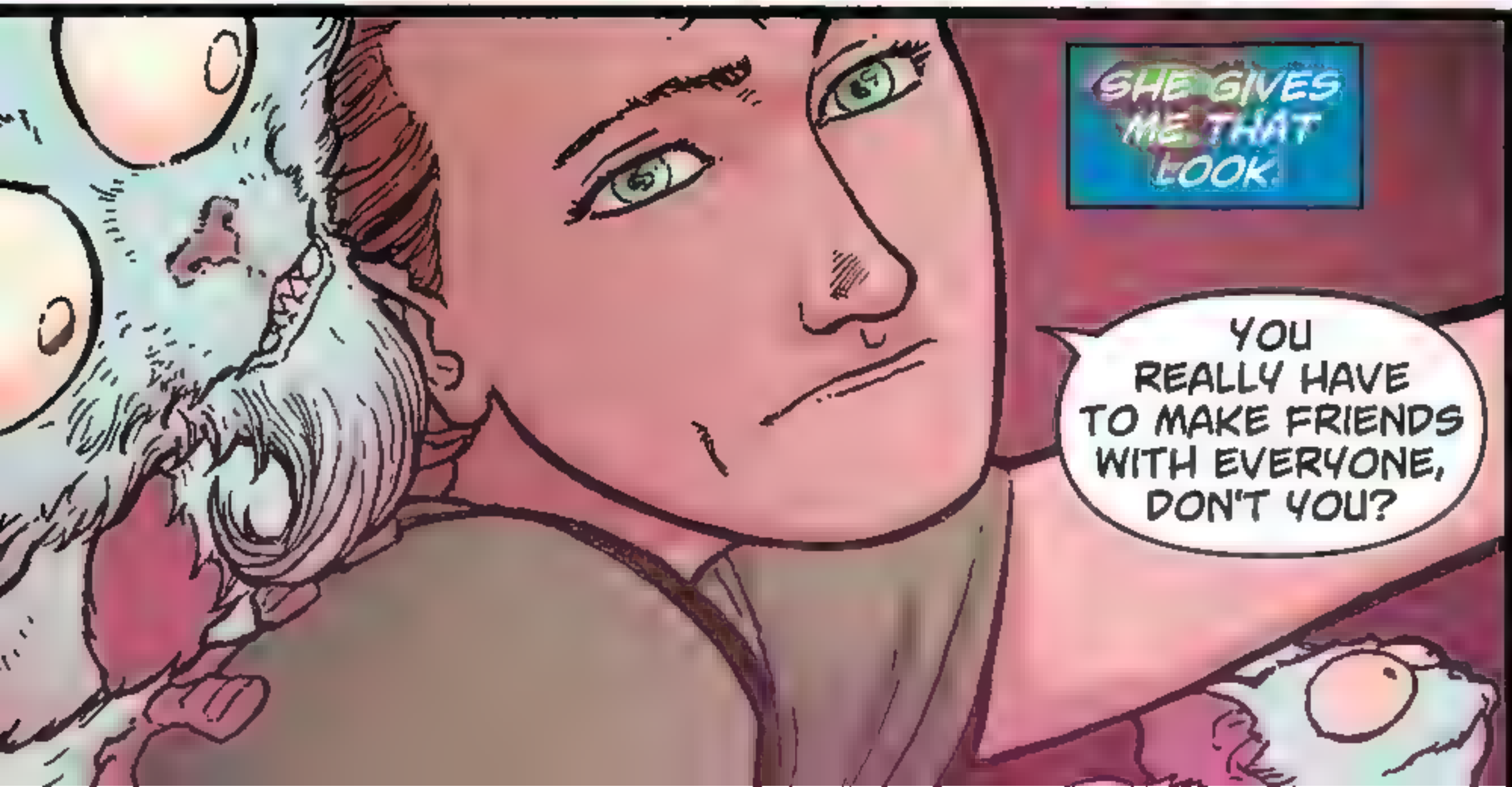
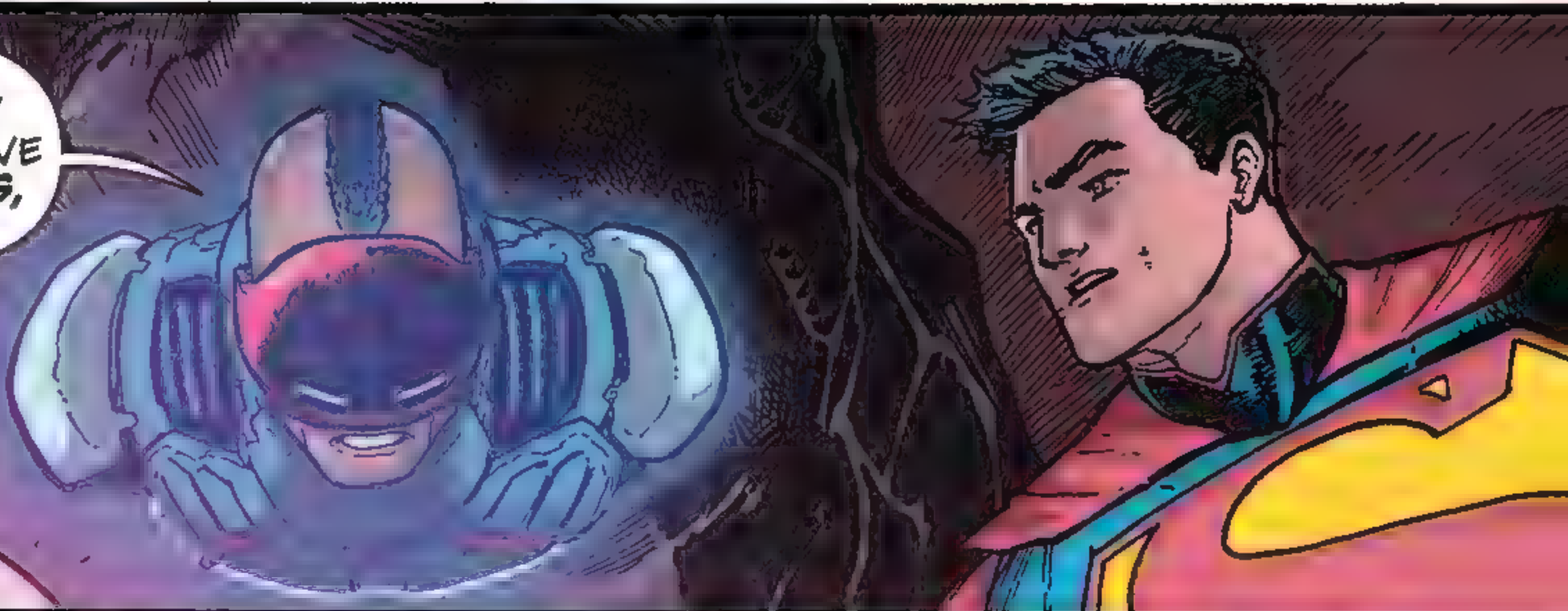
I'VE
GOT TO
FIGURE THIS
OUT!

THE
QUEEN WAS
TALKING ABOUT
"LIFE FORCE,"
LIKE THAT'S WHAT
POWERS 'EM--

--BUT THAT'S
RIDICULOUS.
THERE'S NO SUCH
THING.



YOU
PROBABLY
DON'T BELIEVE
IN GHOSTS,
EITHER.



SHE GIVES
ME THAT
LOOK.

YOU
REALLY HAVE
TO MAKE FRIENDS
WITH EVERYONE,
DON'T YOU?



HE GIVES
ME THAT
LOOK.

WHY
NOT?

GHOST

A
MONSTER

AN
ALIEN

AND A
FARM
GIRL

SAVING
THE DAY?

KRAA
KRAA
MOOOO

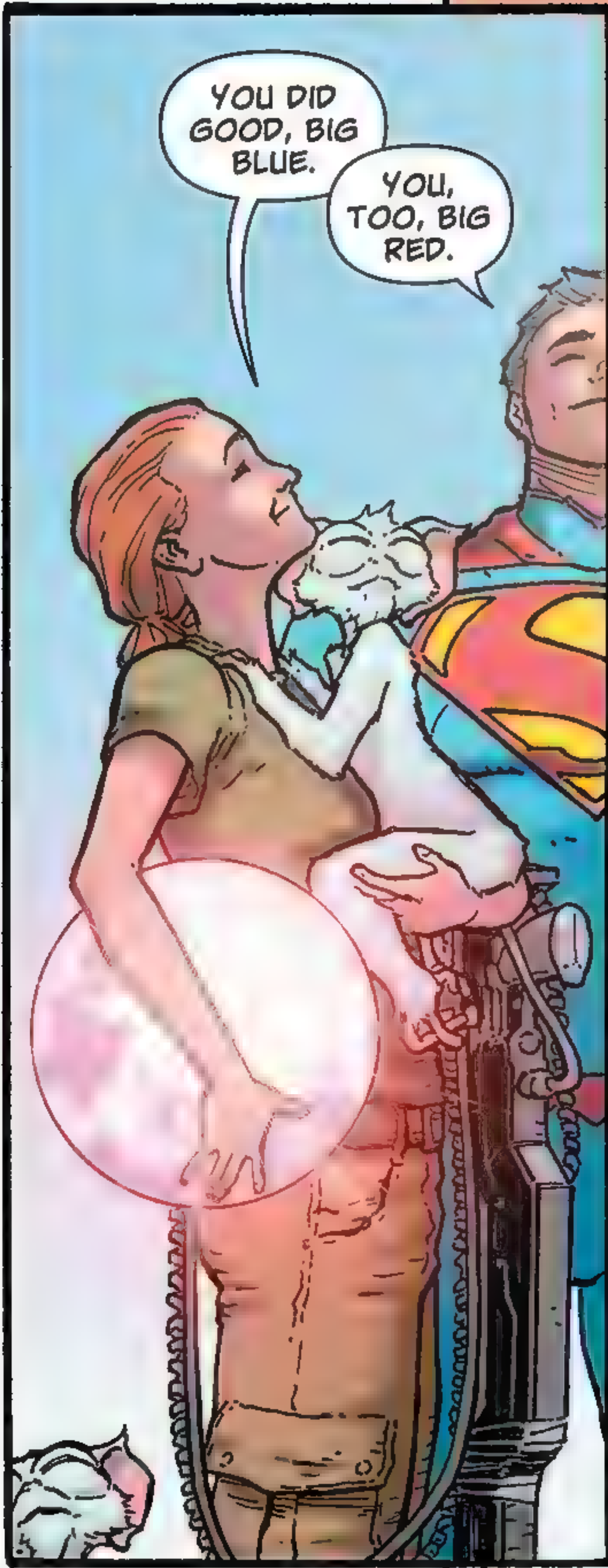
YEAH

EEE!

WHY
NOT?

EEEP!





YOU DID GOOD, BIG BLUE.

YOU, TOO, BIG RED.



ATCHOO!



HEY, THERE, FELLA, ARE YOU--



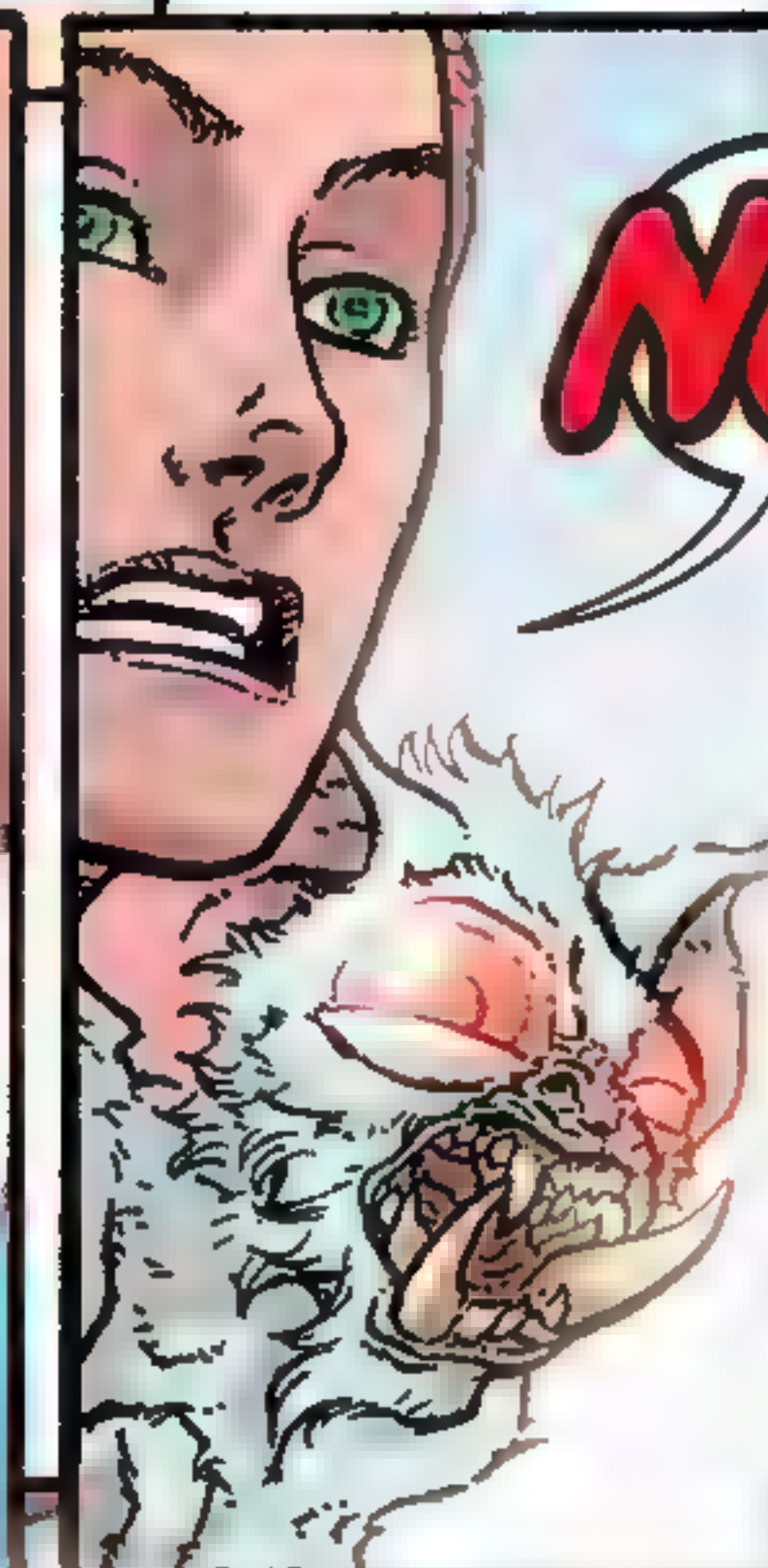
HAAARK



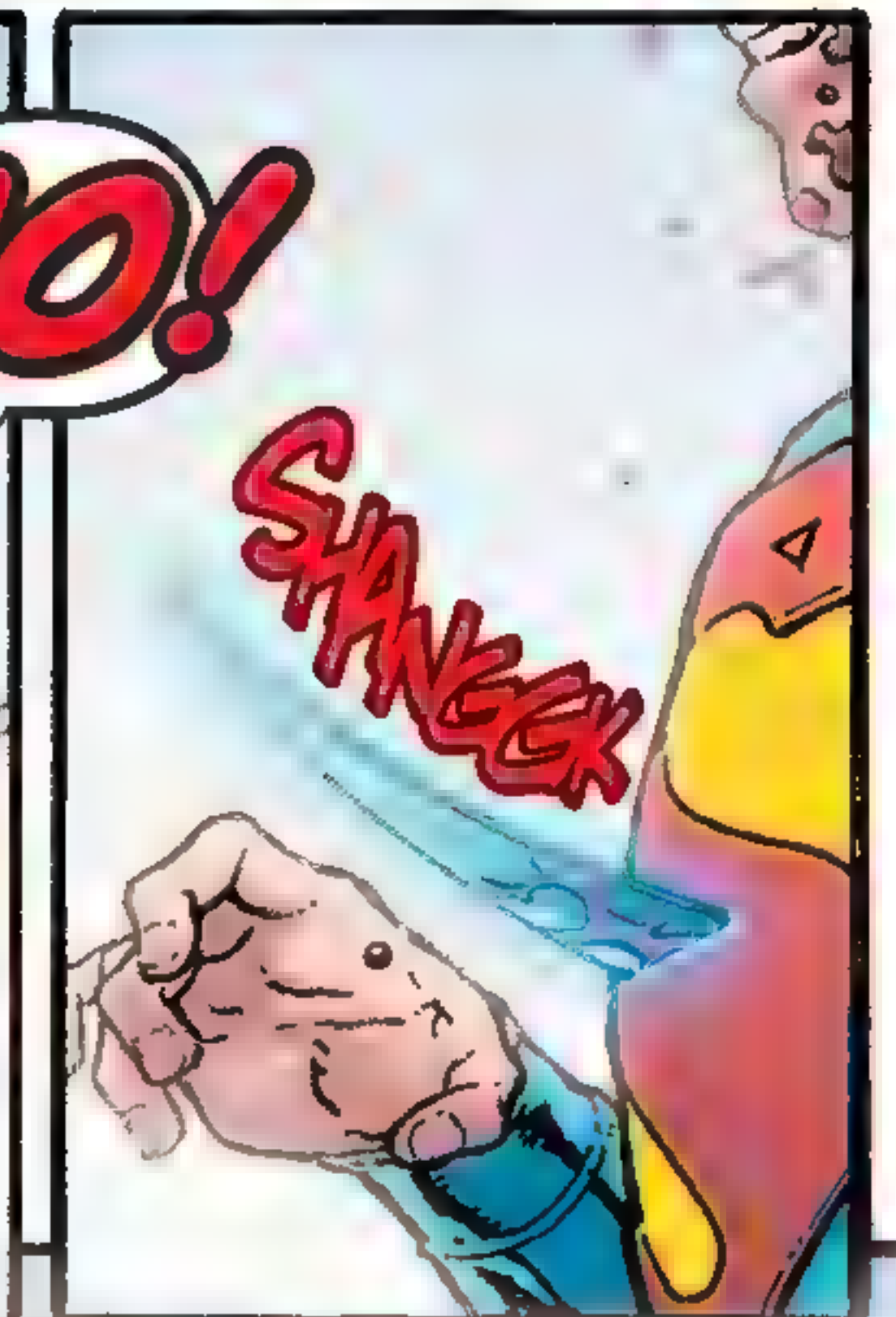
OH, NO. THE SUN. THEY'RE NOT USED TO THE--



HRRK!



NO!



SHANGK



WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

I MAY BE A GHOST, MS. LANG...

...BUT I'M STILL HUMAN...

GRRRAAGH!



...AND I'LL
NEVER SIDE
WITH **MONSTERS**
AGAINST MY
SPECIES.

I GUESS
THAT'S
WHY NOT.

NEXT:
FIRE
AND
ICE!

CHANNEL 52 INVESTIGATIVE REPORT!

AT CHANNEL 52 WE PRIDE OURSELVES ON DELIVERING HARD-HITTING, FACT-BASED NEWS ENTERTAINMENT.

SO WHEN PROOF OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WONDER WOMAN AND SUPERMAN CRASHED THE NEWS CYCLE LIKE AN ALIEN ROCKET SHIP SMASHING INTO EARTH...

...WELL...

I MAY HAVE SAID SOME THINGS ABOUT HOW CHANNEL 52 WOULD KEEP ITS EYE ON THE REAL STORIES AND NOT BUY INTO THE MASSIVE HYPERBOLE, THE VERBOSE PONDERING ABOUT THE POTENTIAL FOR PANDEMONIUM IF THEY TURN EVIL...

...CHANNEL 52 WOULD STAY THE COURSE!

THERE WOULD BE WEATHER AND SPORTS COVERAGE, DARN IT!

OBVIOUSLY, THAT LASTED ALL OF TWO SECONDS WHEN THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE GOT TO OGLE WONDER WOMAN GETTING TO FIRST BASE WITH SUPERMAN!

WE'VE BEEN PLAYING IT ON A LOOP IN *SLOW MOTION* FOR HOURS AND OUR RATINGS KEEP GOING UP!

LIKE I SAID, CHANNEL 52 ALWAYS GIVES THE PEOPLE WHAT THEY WANT, SO WE ARE OFFICIALLY TURNING OUR PROGRAMMING INTO 24/7 COVERAGE OF SUPERMAN AND WONDER WOMAN HOOKING UP!

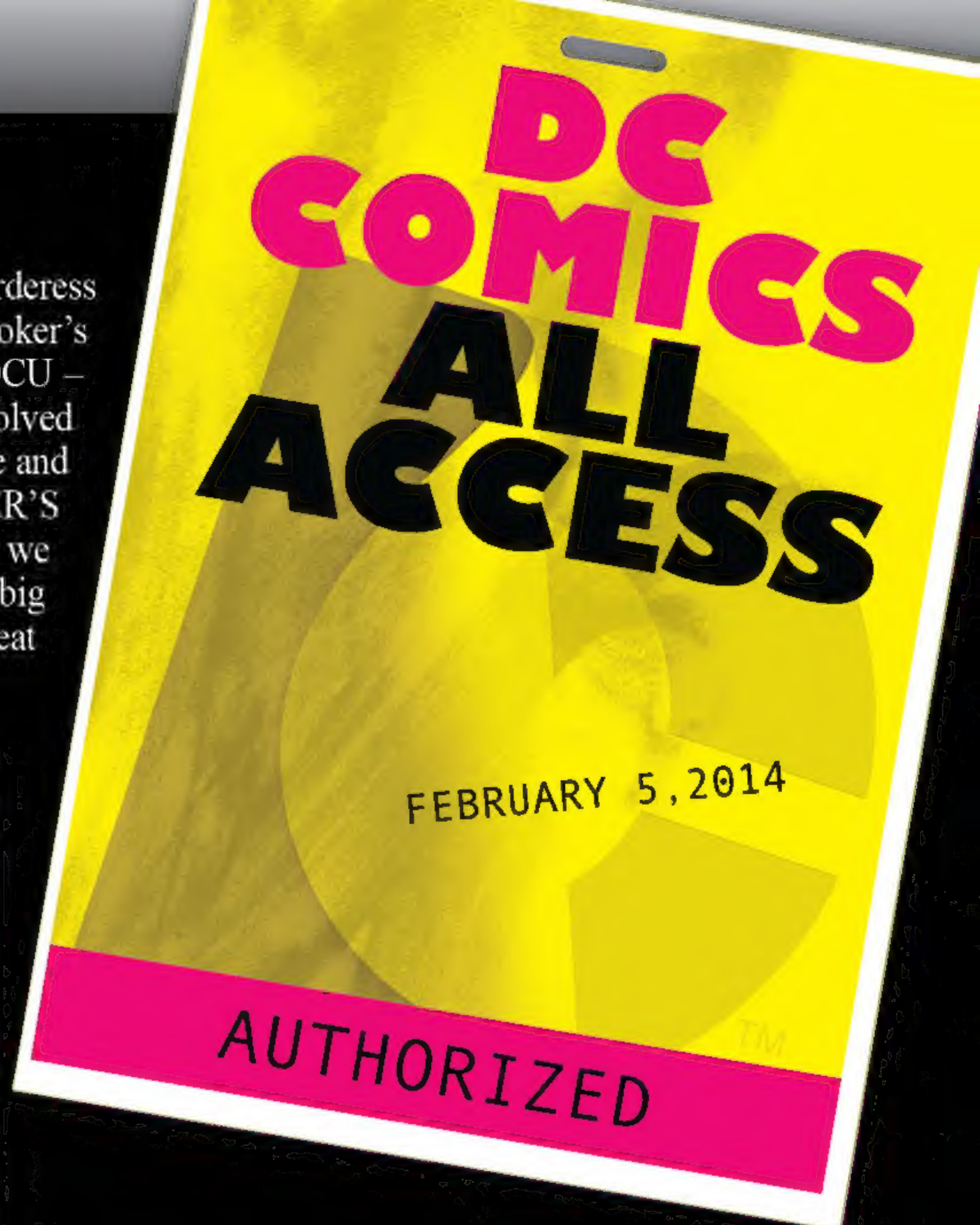
MORE KISSING! MORE EXPERT TESTIMONIAL! MORE OF YOUR EMAILS AND ANGRY PHONE CALLS! REENACTMENTS, SPECULATION AND NO MENTION OF HOW THIS COULD POSSIBLY GO WRONG ON A GLOBAL SCALE! IT'S ALL COMING YOUR WAY...

...BECAUSE CHANNEL 52 CARES!

W

HO IS THE JOKER'S DAUGHTER?

Very few characters have made an impact on The New 52 quite like the murderess madwoman known as The Joker's Daughter! From brandishing the real Joker's face as a mask (eww), to ruling over the most deadly new location in the DCU – The Gotham Underground – everything The Joker's Daughter has been involved in has been rather extreme, and she's just getting warmed up! But who is she and what does she want with Gotham City? With this month's special THE JOKER'S DAUGHTER #1 we'll be answering those questions and raising new ones as we reveal more than ever before about this fiendish female. You should expect big things out of THE JOKER'S DAUGHTER this year, and this special is a great place to get caught up on everything you need to know!



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